Dear Parents and Friends of the College,

During Week 10 the students in Year 7 and Year 9 were involved in camps at The Australian Bush Camp Tea Gardens and Cataract Scout Park at Appin. The camps proved to be a very positive experience for students. Each faced new challenges in the form of different activities at the camps. The camps also provided students with the opportunity to get to know others in their year and to develop an increased sense of community amongst each of the groups. The camps are an essential element in the life of a year group and I thank parents for supporting the activity. I also take the opportunity to thank the teachers involved. Teachers left their families and gave up their time to support students and I am certainly grateful for their contribution to the success of each camp.

This evening proved to be very rewarding.

At the beginning of this week teachers conducted interviews with parents and students in relation to interim reports. This is the first time parents in Years 7-10 have been presented with interim reports. As parents would be aware, these reports contained new grades for achievement. These are the grades which will be used for assessment and reporting across the college. I take this opportunity to emphasise that it is essential that both students and parents have a clear understanding of the meaning of these grades. This will allow students to increase their understanding of their performance and how they may be able to improve in the future. I emphasise to both parents and students that if they do not understand the grades, they should seek clarification as soon as possible to ensure that the maximum benefit is gained from these reports.

Over the last two weeks our Year 12 students have been undertaking half yearly exams. Many students have certainly worked hard to ensure that they would be able to attain the best possible results in each of their subjects. Many of these students realise the importance of working throughout the term and the fact that consistency will lead to pleasing results. I congratulate those students, who have worked consistently, on their efforts to date.

During the last two weeks, a number of students have been involved in activities where they have used their talents to represent the college and come close to winning the competitions in which they have been involved. As was mentioned in the previous newsletter, Maryann Wright, Joshua Kamalaneson and Anthony El Zakhem were finalists in the CDSA public speaking competition. Although they did not win their respective divisions, their performance was commendable. The Senior Boys Cricket team reached the Grand Final of the CBSA competition and again, although not winning, performed admirably. Finally, the Open Boys Basketball Team actually won the CBSA Basketball competition. I congratulate these students on their wonderful performances and their willingness to “Let their light shine” by using their talents. I also congratulate the coaches of our representative teams this term. They have certainly given a great deal of support to the students.
As we return to school next term, the enrolment period for 2007 will begin and will continue until 23rd May. An Information Evening for Year 7 2007 will be conducted on May 3 in the senior rooms at the college. Information and enrolment packages will be distributed on the night. Any parents wishing to enrol students into Year 7 in 2007 should attend this evening. An information evening for Year 11 2007 will be conducted later in the term.

As the term draws to a close, and we approach Easter, so to do our collections for Caritas. Caritas is one aspect of social justice in action at the college. This year the college has attempted to be more practical in our approach to outreach during Lent. Students and staff have been attempting to raise money to buy a cow or a well for people overseas who are less fortunate than themselves. It gives me great pleasure to report that, due to contributions made by students, the college has raised $3,200 to date. Well done!

This week the first Parent Evening for the year was conducted in the library. The topics covered were “An Overview of the College in 2006”, “The Annual Development Plan” and “Assessment and Reporting at the College”. Parents were also given the opportunity to nominate other areas that they would like addressed throughout the year. I thank Mrs Peterson and Mrs Eljed for their support on the night. I also thank the parents in attendance on the evening. It provided to be a most informative event.

Congratulations to Mr Andrew Steadman who will marry his fiance Jenny during the holidays. We wish them all the very best in their future lives together.

This week the college bids farewell to Ms Skoczlas. Ms Skoczlas has decided to leave the college for personal reasons. In her place we welcome Miss Rebecca Nolan.

Finally, I thank parents and students for their support during Term 1. I encourage everyone to involve themselves in Easter ceremonies in their parishes and wish all a holy Easter and a safe first term break. The college will reopen on Monday May 1st.

God Bless,

John Lo Cascio
Principal

Term Two
A reminder that Term Two begins at GSCC on May 1st. This will be a Day 6. All students will be expected to be in winter uniform. The college uniform policy is found on page XIV in the college diary. Students and parents are also reminded to read the college grooming guidelines before having holiday hair appointments.

We will continue allowing students to wear their sports uniform to school on the days they have practical PDHPE lessons throughout next term.

Term Two looks like it will be another busy term. These are a few important dates to note for early in the term.

GSCC Athletics Carnival - Monday 8th May
Pupil Free Day - Friday 19th May

More information will follow early next term about both dates.

Mrs B Eljed, Assistant Principal

Mother’s Day Mass
This year the college will celebrate a Mother’s Day Mass on Friday May 12th at 5 pm. The venue is St Anthony’s Church at Austral. In the past, there has been a large number of people attending this Mass and, therefore, we have decided to make it even more available for people to attend by putting the Mass on at 5.00pm in the afternoon at a larger venue.

Students will receive a letter regarding the Mother’s Day Mass on the first day of Term Two. Any people who will be attending the Mass should return the permission note as soon as possible so that we can clarify numbers. We look forward to seeing as many students, mothers and grandmothers as possible on Friday, May 12.

Mr K Griffiths
Religious Education Coordinator

Term 1 College Fees
A reminder that Term 1 Fees are now due. Thank you to those families who have met their commitments. If parents have difficulties paying fees, they should contact the college office to make an appointment to see Mr Lo Cascio to discuss the issue.

Year 7 SRC Representatives
It has been traditional to elect Year 7 SRC Representatives at the Year 7 Camp each year. This year we congratulate: Jemma Samonte and Jake Mangan on being elected to represent Year 7 for 2006.

From the Assistant Principal

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Last week Year 7 went on camp for 3 days. On the first day we arrived at school really early in the morning, it was freezing. Even though it was very cold I don’t think anyone cared, because we were all excited about the camp.

When we arrived at the Aussie Bush Camp we sat around some logs and found out what cabins we were in and once we had finished unpacking our bags, we went for a walk to a huge rock and had some lunch. After lunch we got ready for our activities. The first two activities were the flying fox and gully crossing. Getting ready for the flying fox was a little bit nerve-wracking for everybody but almost everyone had a go. When we were ready we climbed up a ladder and once we reached the top the instructor hooked you up and off you went. Flying over a river having a great time. At the gully crossing activity we had to build a stable swing, in our team, to get everybody across to the other side safely. It was difficult at first but we all managed.

The next day was an exciting day when we did archery and abseiling. At archery quite a few people got the bullseye but most got the rings around it. When we finished we went abseiling. Once we were in our harness we climbed a 12.5m ladder up to the top. When we got up there we were attached to a rope and led down the wall by the instructors. At first it was scary but after awhile it was fun! That afternoon all of Year 7 went to the beach and had a swim, then we went back to the park and had a BBQ which was yummy. That night we had a Liturgy. It was lovely and I think everyone enjoyed it! As well as this we voted for the SRC. It was a fun night!

The next morning we did our last two activities, the giant slide and canoeing. The giant slide was really high especially if you went to the top. It was 7m high. On the first go you held onto a rope and your classmates pulled you up. This was good because you could tell them when to stop. On the second go (if you wanted to) you climbed right to the top and went from there.

At canoeing, when we reached the end of the river, everyone put their canoes in one line and we had to stand up and hold hands. Lots of people thought we were going to fall but we didn’t. When we were rowing back I think lots of arms were aching.

That afternoon we had lunch, put our bags on the bus and came home. Although camp was fun, it was good to be home.

Thanks to all of our teachers for giving up their time to come on camp with us.

Alyssa Cook (Year 7)

On 3rd April the Year 9 students, ventured out to Lake Cataract for 3 days of adventure. After arriving we were greeted by the friendly instructors.

Our first activity for the day was to pitch the tents, this was a very challenging event because many of us have not experienced constructing a tent. Once the tents were up, the girls and boys were split and we had lunch. After lunch, we were divided into the 6 pastoral care classes. In these classes we headed off to our first activity. Some activities provided at camp were; the giant swing, abseiling, dual flying fox, challenge valley, high ropes, pioneering and more.

We then were sorted into our cabin and tent groups, which we had chosen prior to the camp. We gathered our belongings and put them in our accommodation. It was decided that the girls would spend the first night in cabins and the boys would stay in tents. After placing our belongings in our cabins and tents we assembled again and were told that we were going to have a disco that night. Everyone became very excited and quickly rushed to prepare for this event.

After eating dinner, we formed as a group in a hall. We played assorted games and then the disco began! The instructors prepared us supper, and told us stories around a camp fire. Everyone became very tired and we retreated to our cabins and tents.

It was an early start the next morning, but we were excited and ready for another day of adventure. The girls and boys all set off for breakfast, after which we completed two adventurous activities before gathering for lunch. Over dinner there was a lot of talk about the activities and many students wore a smile as they discussed their day. Afterwards we all put ourselves in the presence of God as the teachers and students participated in a liturgy. After the liturgy, a powerpoint presentation was shown and 18 students were recognised for excellent behaviour and participation through Term 1.

After the liturgy, we headed off to our new accommodation-cabins for boys and tents for girls.

Our last day was another early start, many students were very tired but this was easily shrugged off, once we headed for the last activities. When completed we gathered for the last time at lunch and thanked our instructors for the thrilling and challenging adventures. We all collected our gear slowly to go home, with many memories that challenged us to trust in ourselves and people around us.

So we thank Mr Cloran, the teachers that came to experience camp with us, the camp instructors and all our friends who made the camp enjoyable for us.

Ashleigh Pontifex & Luen Samonte (Year 9)
New Careers Room in the College Library
The new careers room in the college library is available for students to access some print materials to research career options, or to book a time to discuss career options, get assistance with writing a resume or job application or search for jobs. Students interested in any of these career building activities should see Mr. Berry or Mrs. Kennedy to book a time.

Work Placements begin Week One, Term Two
Those Years 11 and 12 students who are completing work placements next term must see their subject teacher in all subjects where classes will be missed to gain an idea of the class work to be caught up and to collect the teacher’s initials or signature in the work placement log book. Students are reminded that assessments that fall due during their work placement period must be submitted on time.

Whilst the preparation to attend work placement can be difficult, most students value their work place experience and enjoy the opportunity to demonstrate their skills, abilities and talents outside of the classroom.

CareerCentral.com.au
Included with this notice are the first few articles from the CareerCentral Bulletin, a paid subscription career service that offers self assessment tools, information on courses and even some job vacancies. Please let me know how useful you think a service like this is for you..

Mr S Berry, Careers Adviser

IT Technology

Internet Safety at home
Students are accessing the Internet and using Internet services such as chat rooms from an increasingly early age. For students, the Internet is an important research, communication and information tool. However, students and their parents need to be aware that there are potential risks and dangers inherent in Internet use. Future issues of the college newsletter will give an ‘Internet Safety Tip’ to provide parents with advice and information to keep their children safe when using the Internet, and to ensure children are empowered when using this important tool.

Internet Safety Tip #1:
At home, the best protection for a child using the internet is parental supervision and guidance. Have the computer installed in a family area. Supervision becomes easier than if it is situated in a child’s bedroom.

Year 7 Technology Students Open Up a Virtual Zoo!

This term’s Year 7 Technology Students have certainly been busy with creating a web site to showcase their virtual zoo. They planned their site using storyboards, and researched the animals using Encarta and the internet. The students then used Macromedia Dreamweaver to develop the web pages with hyperlinks and picture hotspots.

Open Boys Basketball

Congratulations to the Open Boys Basketball Team (Wes Lizada, Matt Alverne, Justin Tomas, Warrick Wood, Aaron Mangala, Ben Piltz and Sam Michaels). With such a talented team we looked like favourites from the start. Our guards showed exceptional talent throughout the competition. Matt with his dribbling and captaincy skills was always able to set up our plays. Wes always seemed to find an open spot to hit and/or have a jump shot and Justin was not shy to drive through a crowd to hit a lay up. Our forwards showed stamina. Ben never looked tired, always active on defence. The other team needed luck when trying to get a pass by Aaron who would intercept the most confident of passes. Warrick was the sneaky one who always managed to cut the base line for an easy 2 points under the ring. Last, but not least, we have our centre Sam. With the height on his side and some extra ordinary talent to go with it, Sam would turn any offensive rebounds into 2 points regardless of the other team’s defence. He was also a monster on defensive boards. Sam took out the MVP award chosen by the referees.

With all this talent the team has managed to go down in GSCC history as the first team to win a basketball competition. There is no doubt that these boys have a lot of talent and they were always humble in their victories showing good character. Congratulations to all.

Mrs L Colman
Coach

INTERIM REPORTS
Any parents who were unable to attend the Parent Interviews for interim reports, should contact the relevant Year Co-ordinator to obtain these reports.
**Senior Girls Cricket**

Last Thursday was our final game of cricket for the season. Unfortunately we did not make it into the semi finals - but it was a great deal of fun. Our last game was against Bethany College. It was a tough and close game and we only lost by 3 runs. Thank you to Mrs Hewitt for being our coach and for teaching us how to play cricket.

*By Jessica Cameron (Year 10 Mackillop)*

**Senior Boys Cricket**

Congratulations to the Senior Boys Cricket side on making the Grand Final of the CBSA competition. The big game was Thursday afternoon, and despite losing the boys tried hard and had a great season.

Special congratulations to Thomas Kennedy, who averaged over 100 with the bat, Jared Ingle and Phil Pauk, who bowled tightly and took key wickets throughout the season.

*Mr D Costin Team Coach*

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**CEO / Centacare’s Post Separation Programs for Term 2**

**Rollercoasters**

Workshop for children 8-12 years whose parents have separated. Join Rollercoasters and get support.

**Monday 8th May** and every Monday following for a total of 8 weeks. Time 4-5pm at Centacare, Endeavour House, Level 4, 3-5 Stapleton Avenue Sutherland. Cost is on a sliding scale depending on income.

All enquiries telephone 9390 5366.

**Crossroads**

Want answers? To your questions about separation and divorce.

Guest Speaker: Justice Jennifer Boland (Family Court of Australia).

**Tuesday 9th May** from 6-9 pm at Centacare, Level 5, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney. Cost $35 including light supper and handouts. (If you are a Health Card holder, please talk to us about a reduced fee).

All enquiries telephone 9709 3815.

**Milestones**

For separated fathers feeling overwhelmed:
Things won’t be the same anymore? Worried about losing contact with your children? Don’t know where to start? Join Milestone a fathering post separation Group.

**Wednesday 10th May** and every Wednesday following for 8 weeks at 6-9 pm at Centacare, 209A Edgeware Road, Enmore. Cost: on a sliding scale depending on income. Super will be provided.

All enquiries telephone 9390 5366.

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**UNIFORM SHOP HOURS**

The Uniform Shop will be open from 7.30 am to 8.30 am Monday to Thursday

On every second Tuesday - the shop will also be available for students at lunchtime and for parents from 12.20 pm - 3.45 pm

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**DATES TO REMEMBER**

| Monday 3rd April to 13th April | Year 12 Examinations |
| Thursday 13th April - Holy Thursday | Easter Liturgy |
| Friday 14th April | Good Friday |
| Sunday 16th April | Easter Sunday |
| Monday 17th April | Easter Monday |
| Tuesday 25th April | Anzac Day |
| Monday 1st May | Term 2 Begins (Day 6) |
| Wednesday 3rd May | Year 7 2007 Information Evening |
| Monday 8th May | GCC Athletics Carnival |
| Tuesday 9th May | Year 10 Careers Testing |
| Friday 12th May | SSSCC Cross Country |
| 19th May | Pupil Free Day (Staff Development Day) |

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