Dear Parents and Friends of the College,

Last Friday evening over 100 members of our community joined together to recognise mothers and carers. As a society, we tend not to take the opportunity to acknowledge and thank those people who make a difference in our lives, which is something that mums and carers certainly do. The Mass was definitely an appropriate means to express gratitude to our mothers and carers as well as to give thanks to our God for these people. I thank all who attended and especially thank Fr Pat, Mr Griffiths, Mrs Popovic and members of the band and choir for their organisation and contribution to the celebration.

This week is National Safe Schools Week which is a time that the Commonwealth Government has set aside to promote the importance of safety in schools. During last Wednesday's Pastoral Care periods, students were reminded that our college is a safe school and that certain behaviours and activities are not acceptable at Good Samaritan as these activities compromise student safety.

Our college does not accept bullying in any form. Violence, weapons and activities involving “gang” type behaviours will not be tolerated. Any substances which are illegal are expressly forbidden at the college. Any students who involve themselves in these activities, and therefore compromise the safety of others in our community, will face serious consequences and may even forfeit their right to continue at the college.

Each student at Good Samaritan has a right to feel safe and happy at the College and no other student is entitled to compromise this right.

The afore mentioned behaviours are unacceptable in our society, but even more importantly, are against the Christian values for which our college stands. The college is aware that in certain instances some of these behaviours may take place, and we will make every effort, both formally and informally, to stamp this negative behaviour out of our community. We will continue to stress our approach at the college and I ask parents to continue to reinforce these values at home.

On Monday 8 May the Annual Athletics Carnival was conducted in windy conditions at Blacktown Olympic Park. The carnival proved to be another event where many students were able to use their talents and compete in different events in order to support their houses. It was certainly pleasing to see these people involve themselves so enthusiastically. I thank Miss Sosimenko for her organisation of the day and teachers and students for their involvement. Thanks also to those parents who braved the conditions to support their daughters and sons and indeed the college.

One aspect which is disappointing on a day like the athletics carnival day, is the small number of students who “take the day off” and do not support extra curricular activity. I remind the students and parents that at the time of enrolment both students and parents agreed they would support college activities. Attendance and participation of students at these activities were part of this agreement. I ask parents to support the college in this matter and to ensure that if students are not in attendance it is for a legitimate reason. This reason should be explained in a note to the student’s Pastoral Care teacher upon return from their absence.

Since the beginning of this term the college has been involved in debating in a newly formed competition. This competition involves local schools and is conducted on Friday afternoons rather than Friday evenings. To date, each of our teams has performed very well, with students continuing to develop more skills with each debate. I thank the coaches Mr O’Sullivan, Mrs Treloar, Miss Schiller, Miss Dangca, Mrs Fegatilli and Mrs Celea. I also thank the parents and students who support the debaters. Finally, I acknowledge those students involved for their willingness to use their talents.

This Friday, May 19 the staff of the college will be involved in a staff development day with a focus on Boy’s Education, Assessment and Reporting. It is hoped that involvement in these days will enhance the skills of the staff while providing increased understanding of and opportunities for our students.
As parents would be aware, the college was presented with a bus by Mr Andy McGrath in the first week of term. It is now our aim to find drivers for the bus. I ask that anyone who has a bus licence and may be willing to donate their time to drive the bus to contact the college office as soon as possible. This would certainly be appreciated and would definitely reduce the costs involved in using our bus. Once again I thank Mr McGrath for his donation and I also thank Mr Avati for his generous donation of fuel for the bus.

Recently Sydney was shocked to hear the news that little Sophie Delezio was involved in another accident in which she was forced to endure yet more suffering. Often in these situations we ask “Why?” and can question our faith. I was inspired to read of the tremendous faith displayed by Sophie’s mother, Carolyn Martin, who is able to grow in faith in spite of the tragedy. I have included the article in this newsletter as it can certainly provide an example to us all. I ask you to keep little Sophie and her family in your prayers. I also ask you to remember Ms Williamson in your prayers as she continues her treatment after surgery.

God Bless,

John Lo Cascio
Principal

Enrolments 2007

Any parents wishing to enroll students into Year 7 2007 should return the appropriate enrolment forms to the college office by Friday 19th of May. All Year 11 students should return forms by 31 May. Late enrolments will be placed on a waiting list and only considered after all other enrolments have been processed.

Good Shepherd, Hoxton Park

Confirmation Preparation

Parents who have registered their child/children for the sacrament of Confirmation please remember that first meeting for parents and children is Tuesday 23rd May at 3.30 pm or after the 7 pm Mass. Session 2 and 3 will be on Tuesday 30th May and 6 June, also at 3.30 pm or after the 7 pm Mass.

Fr Anthony Nguyen

From the Assistant Principal

Parent / Teacher / Student Interviews

We are looking forward to meeting Year 12 parents at the Year 12 Parents/Teachers/Student Interviews on Wednesday 24th May. Students need to book interview times with each of their teachers. There will be interviews for Year 11 students on Tuesday 13th June and for Year 10 students on Wednesday 28th June. Interviews for students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will occur early in Term 3. If parents wish to speak to teachers before these dates about any matters of concern, they are asked to contact the relevant teacher through the college office.

Excursions

Parents of students in Years 11 and 12 will notice a change to the billing of excursions in the Term 2 school fees. Junior students have always paid an excursion levy each term, and previously senior students have paid as the excursions occur. In an attempt to give parents of senior students greater notice, excursions for the current term will now appear itemised on that term’s school fees. Parents are asked to ensure that the excursion is paid for before students attend the excursion.

Mrs B Eljed
Assistant Principal

Mother’s Day Mass

On Friday May 12 the College celebrated the work of Mary, Our Lady, and also recognised the tremendous work our mothers and grandmothers do in educating and supporting their children in the faith. The Mass was held at Good Shepherd and we heard Father Pat discuss the relationship Mary had with her son. Jesus also spoke of the relationship mothers have with their children and the need to ask Our Lady to intercede for us when we need help. The students in attendance presented their mothers and grandmothers with a symbol of the love they have for them. Finally, Fr Pat reminded us about the importance of working our relationships so that we can live out the Gospel message of Christ.

Next week we celebrate the feast of Mary Help of Christians which falls on May 24, on this day we are reminded that Mary is the Mother of all people who take up the cross of Jesus and intercedes with God on their behalf.

Let us pray,
God of all nations, lead the people of Australia to a future of dignity and peace for all.
Amen

Mr K Griffiths
Religious Education Co-ordinator
CAREERSEARCH 2006

As part of our careers focus for year 10 students this term, all year 10 students will visit CareerSearch at University of Western Sydney’s Milperra campus on Wednesday, June 28th. This event is attended by over 200 employer, tertiary education and industry advisory bodies and 37 high schools. On the day of our visit, students can attend seminars presented by professionals currently employed in industry or attend booths to ask questions, collect information or applications or simply collect contact information.

Most Year 10 students completed careers tests administered by Allwell and Associates since the last news letter. Those students who missed out last time will complete their tests on Wednesday this week. The information gathered in these tests will be used to produce individual portfolios for each student. These will be used in the “Exploring Your Career Options” program that will be conducted during PC time this term.

Careers choices are among the most stressful decisions that young people are asked to make, as they often come in the absence of comprehensive information about the tasks, skills and abilities required to do the job, opportunities for employment or appraisal of personal skills and attributes matched to those of the job. This program aims to provide some of these details so that whether students are planning to go on to Year 12 or to leave at the end of the year, they will have some basis for making a good decision.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Scheme for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health students. Valued at $15,000 per annum for the duration of the course, this scholarship commemorates the contribution of Dr. Arnold “Puggy” Hunter to the health of indigenous Australians. If students are interested they should collect a brochure from Mr Berry. (You must be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent). International College of Management, Sydney (ICMS) 2007 National Scholarship

These scholarships, valued at up to $33,000 over two years, cover tuition fees for diploma and certificate courses at ICMS, located in Manly. Terms and conditions apply, collect an application form from Mr Berry if interested.

A huge range of scholarship options are available at the federal government sponsored My Future web portal http://www.myfuture.edu.au/

PARENTS – PLEASE HELP!

Our career program aims to provide students with relevant, up to date information, assistance and encouragement to make good decisions about their future path. No one is more relevant, up to date or encouraging than parents on the industry.

We would like to stage a Careers Market here at school for students from any year to attend. Parent expertise and experience in any industry or pursuit is valuable and their advice is more relevant than any pamphlet or guide.

Please indicate on the tear off section below your interest in assisting with the first Good Samaritan Careers Market, to be held toward the end of term three on one evening here at school.

Mr S Berry (Careers Adviser)

---

Internet Safety Tip #3: Email is not only used to send text messages, it also has the capacity to send attached files which include documents, images, music and movies. Students who use services such as MSN hotmail and Yahoo should be familiar with the risks of electronic mail. Cyber-bullying, where email is used to convey an offensive message, is effectively managed by cancelling the email account which received the message and then creating a new account. Students should always use their school email account to collaborate with other students and their teachers. The college email system contains electronic safeguards which does not allow external/anonymous email to be delivered to a student’s email address.

Digitally transferring school work from home

A reminder that each student has their own ‘filesbox’. The ‘filesbox’ allows students to upload their work from home and retrieve their work on the school network. The filesbox can be accessed through the College website, by clicking on the myDesktop link.

Mr J Reyes (IT Co-ordinator)

Debating Report

To date there have been two rounds of the new SWCCDA debating competition, against Mary MacKillop College and Freeman College. The new afternoon format has been working well, with students able to enjoy their Friday evenings.

The first round at MacKillop saw victories by Years 9, 10 and the Senior team. Round 2 against Freeman saw only one victory, by Year 9. There are three more rounds in the competition. Hopefully one of the teams will compete in the final, to be held on a Friday evening, later this term.

Mr M O'Sullivan (Debating Co-ordinator)

Good Samaritan Careers Market Interest Indicator

Please complete the fields below and return this strip to the College office Attention: Mr Berry

Name (Please Print)

Industry Area / Occupation

Contact Details
Last week, Year 7-10 Science students participated in the 2006 National Science Competition. In the past, Good Samaritan has had a number of students who received High Distinctions, Distinctions and Credits for their achievements in this competition. The test was made up of 45 problem solving questions. Most questions had stimulus material attached to help the students visualise what they were asked to do. Students were to analyse the information provided in each question and select the most appropriate answer. The analysis of the stimulus material to solve problems is what the test was about.

The results and feedback that are sent back to the school to each individual student not only help students pin point their strengths and weaknesses when solving scientific problems but it also enables the Science teachers to figure out where our students strengths and weaknesses lie. This helps us better prepare the students for up-coming exams such as half yearly exams or School Certificate exams. The results can also help teachers evaluate their programs so they can concentrate on particular skills our students are lacking. The information for this competition will be posted later in the year. With luck, we will have another handful of awards to distribute!

The Voluntary Science Competition which was run by the Australian Museum recently concluded and entries were submitted early last Friday morning. A number of talented Year 10 boys participated in the competition and they are to be congratulated on their fantastic efforts.

Anthony Endravian and Aaron Colley both submitted a 3 minute video titled “The Disease Dilemma”. It told the story of where diseases are found in common areas of the school, in particular the vending machines and the C-block staircase railings. Experiments were performed and the results of the experiments were shown on the video as evidence to support their theories.

Andrew El-Zakhem, Matthew Alverne and Benjamin Piltz also made a 3 minute video titled, “The Path of the Pathogen”. It too dealt with the idea of disease, how it spreads in common situations in the playground and how to avoid these problems using simple hygienic practices.

With the technological talents of Mr Galvin, the students were able to produce some well made video footage of everyday Science in a creative and educational way.

Michael Stikovic and Jesse Labuguen branched out from the Hollywood video making and decided to work on a Webpage designed to educate people about our unique planet Earth, the issues we face on Earth and ways in which to reduce the problems we have created over time. Not only did they research using the net and other secondary resources available, they also used some interesting visual effects to make the webpage one that people could learn from and be entertained by at the same time.

I have been very lucky to work with these talented students. It has been an absolute pleasure learning, along the way, with them. It is incredible to know that our students here at Good Samaritan have more talent than they actually show. However, when opportunities like these competitions come along, and students choose to take them on board, it is amazing to see what lies beneath the pen and paper!

Congratulations to these students who participated. The results of the competition won’t be known for a few months yet. These students, however, have done us proud already.

A very special thank you must be given to Mr Galvin, who worked with these students during his own time in order to give them the best product possible. He too is a scientific marvel and also needs to be congratulated on his dedication and commitment to the project!

Special thanks also to Mrs Pretor, our laboratory technician, who helped with the preparation experiments for Aaron and Anthony.

Until the results of the competition are known, enjoy the Science around you!

Ms P Barry
Science Co-ordinator

The Good Samaritan Catholic College Annual Athletics Carnival was run for the first time at Blacktown Olympic Park. There were many good performances both on and off the track throughout the day. Unfortunately, we were unable to complete all events for all age groups. These events will be conducted after school over the next couple of weeks. Below are the current House points scores.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standings</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>La Salle</td>
<td>968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Merici</td>
<td>859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>MacKillop</td>
<td>761</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Chisholm</td>
<td>634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Polding</td>
<td>597</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>De Paul</td>
<td>533</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It was great to see so many students participating in the different events and getting involved in the spirit of the day. The Southern Sydney Athletics Carnival will be held on Friday 18th August 2006. The college team for this event will be announced closer to the carnival.

A big thank you to all staff and students who made this day a great success.

Miss D Sosimenko
Internal Sports Co-ordinator
On Tuesday the 15th August all Year 9 and 10 students will sit for the AFLA competition. The competition, organised by the Commonwealth Bank, aims to stimulate interest in financial literacy, enable students to identify their strengths and weaknesses in an external examination, support teachers and learning activities and to recognise and reward achievement in all areas.

The format of the examination is 48 multiple choice questions to be attempted in 50 minutes. Each question is worth one mark and there are no marks deducted for incorrect answers. Calculators may be used. Students who achieve in the top 1% earn a certificate of High Distinction, the next 10% earn a Distinction, the next 20% a Credit and all other students will receive a certificate of participation.

This is the first year the college will be running this competition and we hope it will be beneficial to student’s overall schooling, as well as provide an opportunity for students to receive a certificate which could be placed in resumes. Entry to the competition is free.

Mr A Laming
Mathematics Co-ordinator

The examination timetables were distributed to Year 12 students last week and parents and students are advised to note the following important information provided in these timetables:

- HSC examinations commence on Thursday 19 October and continue until Wednesday, 15 November (inclusive)
- English paper 1 will be held on Friday 20 October 2006.
- English paper 2 will be held on Monday 23 October 2006.
- Students should pay attention to starting and finishing time of examinations as they do vary.
- Languages Speaking examinations will be conducted from 12 August to 23 September 2006 and the venue may not be the same as the written examinations.
- No allowance will be given to any students who do not attend or are late due to misreading the timetable.
- Students are advised to re-familiarise themselves with the HSC Rules and Procedures booklet.

School Certificate Tests
The tests for the School Certificate are scheduled within the final week of the HSC examination period, and will be conducted as per the table below:
Further information is available on the Board of Studies web site, including guidelines for preparing for examinations.

Mrs C Peterson
Curriculum Co-ordinator

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday 13 November</th>
<th>Tuesday 14 November</th>
<th>Wed 15, Thurs 16 &amp; Fri 17 November</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Online Computing Skills test - further details will be provided at a later date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Australian History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On Friday 12th May Good Samaritan attended the Southern Sydney Combined Catholic Colleges Cross Country Carnival. The day went really well and all students showed tremendous spirit throughout the day.

Overall, our College came second which was an outstanding achievement. Congratulations to Isabella Pezzuto who won her event and is now the Under 12’s Southern Sydney Age Champion. Along with Isabella the following students have made it through to compete in the NSW Combined Catholic Colleges cross country carnival at Eastern Creek on Friday 16th June:

Anthony Tomelic
Carmelo Ussia
Aiden Ruiz
Hayley Ingle
Michael Romeo

Thank you to Mr Brown, Miss Sosimenko and Mr Grech for their assistance on the day.

Miss V Hayward
Sports Internal Co-ordinator

World Youth Day Prayer Night
To be held Saturday 3 June (Vigil of Pentecost)
at St Benedict’s Church 104 Broadway (Notre Dame University)
at 7.30 pm.
All Year 11 and Year 12 students are encouraged to attend.
Carolyn Martin, mother of five-year-old burns survivor Sophie Delezio, says her faith has been “strengthened” and become a “sense of great comfort” during her daughter’s recovery after a second life-threatening accident.

“This latest accident hasn’t rocked my faith at all,” she said.

“In fact, it has become a great strength.”

“As a family we are very humbled that virtually a nation is praying for Sophie.”

“We appreciate it so much because it gives us strength to face the day.”

Sophie was critically burnt when a car crashed through the front of a Fairlight pre-school in December 2003.

She required skin grafts to treat third degree burns to more than 85 per cent of her body. She lost both feet, fingers and an ear as a result of the accident.

Just over a week ago, Sophie was on life support at Sydney Children’s Hospital after a car smashed into her pram while she was being pushed across a pedestrian crossing on Frenchs Forest Rd, Seaforth.

The accident left her with a broken jaw and shoulder bone, bruising to her head, rib fractures and bleeding around her left lung caused by massive blunt force trauma.

Asked how the family was coping during this latest ordeal, Carolyn replied: “How do you go about facing a situation like this? You have faith and take one step at a time.”

Sophie’s father, Ron Delezio, says the family is praying for another miracle from Bl Mary MacKillop to speed his daughter’s recovery.

During her first accident, the family prayed for Mary MacKillop to intercede on Sophie’s behalf.

Sophie carries a picture of Mary MacKillop with her as a constant reminder of the role she played in saving her life.

“We do believe that Mary MacKillop caused a miracle with Sophie during the first accident,” says Ron, “(and) we believe Mary MacKillop will take care of Sophie again.”

Ron said he was overwhelmed by the public response following the latest tragedy and thanked the community for their prayers.

“It’s amazing and it’s very heartening to us to see that people who care for other people through faith in humanity are out there,” he said.

“We’re very grateful that people do care and pray for our daughter because we’ve been through it again, where we’ve needed the prayers, and it’s just heartening to see that happen.”

Josephite Sr Sheila McCreanor, a member of the congregational leadership team for the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, says Mary MacKillop Chapel at North Sydney has been a “powerhouse of prayer” since the latest accident.

Sr Sheila says members of the Josephite order are “praying in a special way” to Mary MacKillop to intercede on Sophie’s behalf.

“I have no doubt that Sophie surviving her first accident was itself a miracle,” she said.

“Even though it may not satisfy the requirements of the Vatican, it certainly was a miracle that she survived.”

“Sophie has been mentioned at the Eucharist and people have been asked to remember her in a special way in their prayers.”

“Some of the Sisters do know the family personally, but we have respected their privacy and are giving the family our support through prayers.”

“We were shocked and saddened to hear about Sophie’s misfortune. “Our thoughts and prayers are with them.”
19th May
Pupil Free Day (Staff Development Day)

22nd May to 2nd June
Year 11 Work Placements

24th May
Year 12 Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews

26th May
Year 10 HSIE Excursion

Saturday 27th May
Year 7 2007 Enrolment Interviews

29th May to 2nd June
Year 10 Assessment Week

5th June
Year 8 Music Incursion

13th June
Year 11 Parent/Teacher/Student Evening

16th June
NSW CCC Cross Country
Year 10 HSIE Excursions

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

CEO, Centacare Post Separation Program
BACK ON TRACK - Want Help?
Accepting the reality of being single after separation/divorce
Setting appropriate boundaries between you and your ex partner
Getting on top of financial and legal matters

FIND OUT HOW TO MAKE IT ALL WORK
Join a support group and get back on track...
When: Tuesday 23 May 2006 and every Tuesday for 6 weeks. Time: 6.30 to 9 pm.
Venue: Centacare, Endeavour House, Level 4, 3-5 Stapleton Avenue, Sutherland.
Cost: on a sliding scale depending on income. For all enquiries contact Tele: 9390 5366

Other Programs:
SANCTUARY—WHEN HEAVEN TOUCHES EARTH, MONDAY May 22, (Trish Watts)
MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN MY WORLD, TUESDAY May 23 (CEO Spirituality Team)
REFLECTING ON THE MARK’S GOSPEL, WEDNESDAY May 24, (Robyn Gallagher & Anthony Steel)
REFLECTING ON HUMAN DIGNITY & THE INCARNATION, TUESDAY May 30 (Beth Goodwin, Thomas Merton Society)
I WILL ARISE: A CELTIC RETREAT DAY, THURSDAY June 1 (Judith Keller & Patricia Thomas)
Contact: Parent Liaison Person, CEO Tele: 9772 7000

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