Dear Parents, Students, Staff and Friends of the College,

I take this opportunity to welcome staff and students back to the college for 2006. I especially welcome students who are new to the college particularly the youngest members of our community who join us in year 7.

This year will continue to see changes for our community as we enter our eighth year. Our student population is now over 950 and staff number is 91. This is definitely a significant change from the 99 students and 12 staff who attended the first day of Good Samaritan Catholic College at the beginning of 1999. This year is also the year that the college building program will be finalised with Stage 5 of the master plan reaching completion at the conclusion of Term 1. The college will finally have a full complement of classrooms, a performing arts block and basketball courts to add to the fine facilities which exist at present.

At the beginning of each year a challenge is offered to our community via a theme which becomes a focus of college life. This year the tradition will continue with the theme “Let your light shine”. I encourage each person in our community to reflect on the theme and consider what this theme means to them. There are two aspects of the theme which each person is asked to explore. Firstly, how they can use their God given talents to let their light shine in all that they undertake. Secondly how each individual is able to be a light to others - reaching out to them and enabling them to let their light shine. It is a challenge for each of us and is hoped that each of us strive to meet this commitment.

During the final week of 2005 the college received the results of the 2005 HSC. In the main, we were very proud of the efforts of a large number of students. Overall there were twelve subjects within one mark of, or above state average. Eleven subjects improved on last years results and eight subjects had a significantly higher number of students in bands 4, 5 and 6 than the remainder of the state. I take this opportunity to congratulate Sera Pacchiarotta who achieved a UAI of 93.8 and Sean Cosgrove 93.4. Congratulations also, to Catherine Casuscelli, Maria Boulatsakos and Concettina Foti who were awarded teacher scholarships at the Australian Catholic University. A brief outline of the School Certificate and HSC results have been included in this newsletter.

This year the college will be making changes to the Pastoral Care Structure in Years 9 and 10. Until 2006 all Pastoral classes had been organised in House Groupings, which meant that students would stay in the some pastoral class grouping for their six years at the college. After some discussion and consideration in 2005 it was felt that it would be worthwhile to allow students to interact with students from other house groups in Years 9 and 10. This hopefully will enable students to become familiar with a greater number of their peers and thus develop an increased sense of community. The new groupings will be named after the feeder parishes and schools so as to create an affinity with these Parishes, as well as the students’ house patrons. We will now refer to Year 9 and 10 as St Anthony, St Francis Xavier, St Therese, Holy Spirit, Good Shepherd and St Catherine pastoral classes.

This week the college will launch the 2006 Annual Development Plan. This plan once again is based on the Strategic Management Plan 2005-2010. The plan is available from the College Office and may be viewed on the College Website. This plan will form the basis of direction in all areas of college life during 2006.
This year nine new staff members join the existing staff. Miss Kyriacos (English), Mr Steadman (HSIE Co-ordinator), Mrs Celea (English), Mrs Lethbridge (English/HSIE/RE), Mrs Arora (Science), Miss Streeter (Mathematics), Mr Gray (TAS/Year 8 Co-ordinator), Mr Grainger (RE/Visual Arts) and Miss Skoczylas (Ancient History/HSIE). I welcome these staff and am certain that they will be an asset to our community.

Prior to the conclusion of Term 4 2005 I was informed that Br Colin had been asked by the Superior General of the De La Salle Brothers to lead the De La Salle community in Pakistan. It was with both enthusiasm and sadness that Br Colin accepted this position. As a result of this appointment Br Colin will be leaving the college in mid February. The college will formally farewell Br Colin on February 10th at an assembly.

A special collection will be organised for Br Colin prior to February 10th. He is unable to take gifts with him, however any monetary donations would certainly help the De La Salle cause in Pakistan. Br Colin will be missed and I am certain that he would very much appreciate any prayers in support of his ministry and mission.

Over the Christmas holidays the college community was devastated by the tragic news of the death of one of our Year 7 2006 students. Nicholas Saada was killed in a motor vehicle accident, which also injured other members of the family. I ask each person to keep Nicholas and the Saada Family in your prayers in this extremely difficult time.

God bless,

Mr John Lo Cascio
Principal

Religious Education

Welcome back to all students and parents of Good Samaritan. This year seems to be shaping up as another busy one, both liturgically and academically for the Catholic Studies Department. The college theme this year is ‘Let your light shine’ and as I was thinking about how the students and staff can achieve this I read a reflection about seeing the face of Christ in all people we encounter. Every person we encounter provides an opportunity to share the light of Christ and each of us should seek out these opportunities whenever possible.

One such person who let her light shine was Angela Merici. Her feast, which is celebrated on January 27, is an opportunity for Catholics to remember her and the tremendous work she did for women who were poverty stricken.

Her unselfish ways serve as a shining example of how we can all help other people to allow their light to shine.

Another important feast, which we as Christians celebrate, is the Presentation of our Lord in the Temple. This feast, which was on Thursday, February 2 commemorates Simeon’s recognition of the true potential of Jesus as the Child Messiah and his naming of Jesus as “the light of all nations”. Let us challenge ourselves to see the light in all people we meet.

Father,
As we begin the new school year, let us pray that all of us whether, students, parents or staff seek You in all people we meet. Fill our hearts with the light of faith and allow us to accept the child Jesus into our lives. We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen

Mr K Griffiths, RE Co-ordinator

Award Winners 2005

At the end of 2005 the college conducted the presentation of awards to those students who excelled in various areas of college life. Congratulations to the following students who were acknowledged for “aspiring to be more” in certain aspects of college life.

Year 7, 8, 9 & 11 Award Recipients

Junior Public Speaking and Debating Award
Anthony El-Zakhem Year 7, Natasha Perre Year 8 and Maryann Wright Year 9

Quota Public Speaking Award
Maryann Wright Year 9

Junior Creative and Performing Arts Award
Jess Labuguen Year 9

Junior Sports Award
Andrea Brocklehurst Year 7, Sam Garzaniti Year 7, Haylee Ingle Year 8, Shannon Grant Year 8, Joseph Campanelli Year 8, Jeremy Smith Year 8, Melissa Campisi Year 9 and Warrick Wood Year 9

Year 7 Academic Effort Award
Emily Agostino, Nicole Malsem, Rebecca Hunt, Chantelle Monjo, Kim Vu and Paul Tacca

Year 8 Academic Effort Award
Robert Borg, Jade O’Brien, Patrick Scullino, Marisa Zappia, Mariecar Capili, Ben Potter and Natasha Perre

Year 9 Academic Effort Award
Alex De Falco, Jena Napoletano, Melissa Segatto and Emma Newhouse

Year 11 Academic Effort Award
Lauren Camden, Marc Ghignone, Melissa Joseph, Diana Lemos, Patricia Lemos, Stephanie McPherson, Alexander Nikolic, Jane Samuel, Sharna Strohmayer and Veronica Vella

Year 7 Academic Achievement Award
Andrea Brocklehurst, Chantelle Monjo, Kristen Kuan and Anthony Pellegrini, Alyssa Suyko
There are various forms of communication at the College and parents are encouraged to be aware of these in order to be fully informed of issues related to their child’s education.

**College Diary**

Students should carry their diaries at all times. All homework and assignments are to be recorded in the diary. Teachers will communicate with parents via the diary. Diaries should be signed by parents weekly.

**Contact with Teachers**

If parents have an issue with a subject matter they should contact the subject teacher. Any other issues should be referred to your child’s Pastoral Care teacher either via letter or telephone. Your child’s Pastoral Care teacher is always the first point of contact if any issue arises.

(A contact list is included in this newsletter).

**Newsletters**

Newsletters contain important information in relation to issues and College activities these will be distributed in Week 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 of each term.

---

**School Performance in Statewide**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance Bands</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Maths</th>
<th>Science</th>
<th>Australian History</th>
<th>Australian Geography</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Band 4,5,6 School</td>
<td>66.07%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>75.42%</td>
<td>54.96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>63.47%</td>
<td>59.81%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students achieved well in their 2005 School Certificate Examinations. There were State exams in English/Literacy, Mathematics, Science, Australian History and Geography. Based on their results, students were graded within performance bands with 6 being the highest band and 1 being the lowest. To gain a performance band 6 a score of 90+ was required, band 5 was 80+ and band 4 was 70+.

**The Higher School Certificate**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance Bands</th>
<th>Studies of Religion</th>
<th>English Standard</th>
<th>English Advanced</th>
<th>General Maths</th>
<th>Maths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bands 4,5,6 School</td>
<td>98.03%</td>
<td>38.1%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>35.57%</td>
<td>57.13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The College’s results in the 2005 HSC Examination were generally of a high standard, with many students achieving to their potential. Worthy of special mention were results achieved in Studies of Religion, Ancient History, Food Technology, Modern History, Community & Family Studies, Industrial Technology, Music and Physics, where students achieved a proportion of results well above State average in Band 4, 5 and 6.

**Congratulations Miss Sosimenkio**

Congratulations to the college internal sport co-ordinator and former Olympian, Miss Sosimenko. Miss Sosimenko was chosen to carry the Queen’s Baton through Blacktown in the Commonwealth Games Relay during the holidays.

---

**2006 Opening Mass**

The college will conduct our opening mass for 2006 on February 17. Any parents who wish to attend are most welcome.

The Mass will begin at 11 am at Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church Mt. Pritchard. The Mass will also provide the opportunity for the college leaders of 2006 to be presented with their badges.

**SCHOOL PHOTOS**

School Photos will take place on Monday 20th February. Students will shortly receive personalised envelopes to be used for the purchase of photos. It is essential that the envelope details are filled in, that correct money is included and that students hand the envelopes directly to the photographers on the day. Students will be able to purchase individual portraits and PC class group photos. There may be time during the lunch break for family group photos to be taken.

Parents are asked to ensure that their children are correctly attired in full summer uniform with shoes polished on the day. Girls will be expected to have their hair tied back for the photos.

---

**COMMUNICATION**

There are various forms of communication at the College and parents are encouraged to be aware of these in order to be fully informed of issues related to their child’s education.

**College Diary**

Students should carry their diaries at all times. All homework and assignments are to be recorded in the diary. Teachers will communicate with parents via the diary. Diaries should be signed by parents weekly.

---

**Year 8 Academic Achievement Award**

Elizabeth Camilleri, Luen Samonte, Hollie Strohmayer, Courtney Zappala and Nicole Borzcyk

**Year 9 Academic Achievement Award**

Phillip Do, Nhi Tran and Maryann Wright

**House Award**

Dino Romeo 9 Chisholm, Andrew Papallo 10 De Paul, Johathan Tpuu 10 La Salle, Eric Hickings 11 Mackillop, Veronica Vella 11 Merici and Cynthia El-Zakhem 12 Polding

**Junior Good Samaritan Award**

Andrea Broacklherst Year 7, Nicole Malsem Year 7 and Paul Tacc Year 7

Monique Panetta Year 8 and Laura Donaldson Year 8

Juliette Iaconis Year 9

Victoria Mammone Year 10, Kaia Pondelak Year 10, Andrew Papallo Year 10, Daniel Camilleri Year 10 and Lina Romeo Year 10

Lisa Nguyen Year 11 and Marc Ghignone Year 11

---

**School Photos**

School Photos will take place on Monday 20th February. Students will shortly receive personalised envelopes to be used for the purchase of photos. It is essential that the envelope details are filled in, that correct money is included and that students hand the envelopes directly to the photographers on the day. Students will be able to purchase individual portraits and PC class group photos. There may be time during the lunch break for family group photos to be taken.

Parents are asked to ensure that their children are correctly attired in full summer uniform with shoes polished on the day. Girls will be expected to have their hair tied back for the photos.

---

**Newsletters**

Newsletters contain important information in relation to issues and College activities these will be distributed in Week 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 of each term.
Resolving Concerns and Complaints at College

Our college has adopted the recent publication from the Catholic Education Office; "Resolving Concerns and Complaints at School" as an interim policy. Copies will also be sent to all parents when the final document is published after consultation. This interim document will be considered by staff and some input/feedback sought from parents to enable the college to publish its policy.

If a student loses their tax file number, is not sure whether they got one in the past or if the processing time has exceeded 28 days, he/she should call 13 28 61 and once identity has been proven, may receive the TFN over the phone.

Employees have 28 days to provide a TFN to employers after the commencement of employment, after this time employers are required to deduct income tax at a rate of 48.5% from any payments to employees. Further details are available from the ATO website www.ato.gov.au/youth.

Apprenticeships and Traineeships

Now that Christmas and the holiday period are behind us, those students who completed their HSC in 2005 and are currently looking at their options may find the following internet sites useful;

- http://www.migas.com.au/ MIGAS Qld NSW Apprentices and Trainees, click the link for Vacancies,
- http://www.sydtrain.com.au/ Sydney Training and Employment Ltd. click on Sydney Apprenticeships,

TAFE Credit Transfer

Some HSC courses can give credit for modules completed toward qualifications offered by TAFE, and some TAFE courses can give credit toward completed units of study for university degree programs. To find out which courses give credit and how much, go to TAFE New South Wales’ website http://www.tafensw.edu.au/ and click on the HSC / TAFE Credit Transfer link, or the TAFE / University Credit Transfer link.

Parents – if you can spare some time to get involved with the careers and vocational education program at the College, please don’t be shy and let us know.

Whether it’s assisting with mock interviews, mentoring students during Australian Business Week or voicing your opinion about what you’d like to see in a careers and vocational education program – your involvement may be as rewarding for you as it will be for our students. Please call the college on 9825 9955 and ask for Mr Berry.

Mr S Berry
Careers Adviser
Assistance with Homework

Homework is a fact of school life for both students and their parents. It is an essential way of reinforcing learning that is undertaken in the classroom. Homework is quite challenging at High School level and can often be the cause of a great deal of stress for all concerned. The college is keen to offer support in this area to students. Each week there will be assistance available with homework and assignments. Hopefully this will go some way towards reducing stress levels around the home. Teachers will supervise the students and offer assistance when required.

Homework assistance is open to all students in the College at no cost and we hope that students will take advantage of this opportunity to improve the standard of their homework and assessment tasks. Homework assistance will begin Week 3, Tuesday 14th February.

WHEN: Tuesday 8.00 to 8.30: Ms Skuja
Tuesday Lunchtime: Ms Frisardi
Tuesday 3.00 to 4.00: Mr Zuman
Thursday 8.00 to 8.30: Ms Skuja
Friday Lunchtime: Ms Williamson

If these times are not suitable, other times can be arranged with these teachers with 24 hours notice.

WHERE: College Library

Please note that for a student to attend:
- They must have a particular task to work on.
- Parents/Carers should notify the teacher in writing with a note in the diary that their son/daughter has permission to attend Tuesday after school assistance.
- Students need to sign an attendance book.

Access to computers is available if required.

We hope that students will take advantage of this opportunity to enhance their learning.

Learning Support Team

Information Evening

Welcome back to the beginning of a new college year. For many parents and students the anxious waiting for School Certificate and Higher School Certificate results and end of year reports seems so long ago. Instead we look ahead to what we hope will be a happy and successful year for all our students.

This year's theme “let your light shine” is a call for all members of the college community to challenge our students and provide opportunities that promote their talents and abilities, and will be the focus of our 2006 curriculum goals. Staff development will be directed at recognising student potential and individual needs and developing strategies that meet these learning needs of students. We will also be looking at reviewing our assessment and reporting procedures and hope to include parents in making decisions that support their child’s learning.

Year 11 Information Evening, Wednesday, 8 February at 7pm

This evening has been organised for Year 11 students and their parents and will provide important information regarding the responsibilities of students in their Preliminary Higher School Certificate year. Advice on assessment and suggestions on how to have a successful year will be provided. It is expected that all students, accompanied by at least one parent, attend this evening which will be held in the senior block (E Rooms).

Blazer Measuring

All students at Good Samaritan Catholic College will be required to have a Blazer by the beginning of Term 2. Students will begin Term 2 (1st May) in full winter uniform.

On Wednesday 15th February the college will be holding blazer fittings for all Year 7 students and placing the 2006 order for Blazers.

Students in Year’s 8, 9 and 10 will need to check their Blazer size and if a new Blazer is required, there will be a time made available for these students to be fitted on the Wednesday and for the necessary sizes to be included in the order.

The current prices are:
- Boys Blazer Youth $150.00 Size 10 - 17
- Mens $160.00 Size 5 - 10
- Girls Blazer $140.00

Also, if any Year 7 student already has a Blazer, please let the office know so that a Blazer is not automatically ordered.

Parents will be required to pay for the Blazer before they can be collected in the last week of Term 1.

Any current student wishing to sell their Blazer through the College Second-hand Uniform Shop will need to leave their Blazer at the Uniform Shop between 7.30 to 8.30 am Tuesday 7th February. (Blazers left after this date will be too late for resale!). The Blazer needs to be dry cleaned with name and selling price clearly marked.

Book Packs

If there are any problems with book packs which were distributed on 2nd February, please call Endeavour Education on Tele: 9771 3133. Do not call the school, as the school does not have access to any of Endeavour’s paperwork.
Invitation

The Federation of Parents and Friends Associations of the Catholic Schools, Archdiocese of Sydney, will be holding their Annual General Convention on 16th March 2006. They would like to invite members of school’s parent representative body to attend the AGC.

Guest speaker for the night will be Mrs Danielle Cronin, Executive Director of the Council of Catholic School Parents. She will be addressing current educational issues which will be impacting on our schools in 2006 and the role parents can play in their implementation. This is an important topic in our current political climate and one which we believe parents will find most worthwhile.

The AGC agenda will also include:
- Amendments to the Federation’s constitution.
- Nomination of the executive committee for 2006.

For further details contact the college office on tele: 9825 9955.

Help Needed……

The Library is seeking helpers to assist with the covering of books. If you can spare some time, your assistance would be most welcome.

G. Lozelle, Librarian/Teacher

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS
The Uniform Shop will be open from 7.30 am TO 8.30 am
On every second Tuesday commencing 7th February - the shop will also be available for students at lunchtime and for parents from 12.20 pm - 3.45 pm

Canteen

Students do not place lunch orders.

A large variety of hot food as well as salads and sandwiches are prepared each day and the students are able to buy at recess and lunch times.

Included separately with this newsletter is a price list of food that is available.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY 06.02.06</th>
<th>TUESDAY 07.02.06</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY 08.02.06</th>
<th>THURSDAY 09.02.06</th>
<th>FRIDAY 10.02.06</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N Tummarello</td>
<td>D Toro</td>
<td>A Marcocci</td>
<td>K Cutler</td>
<td>J Short</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E Hobby</td>
<td>E Waga</td>
<td>M Keir</td>
<td>G Bartolo</td>
<td>A Pipicella</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J Colley</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>L Bakhos</td>
<td>S Ruiz</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY 13.02.06</th>
<th>TUESDAY 14.02.06</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY 15.02.06</th>
<th>THURSDAY 16.02.06</th>
<th>FRIDAY 17.02.06</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T Goulbic</td>
<td>D Beazley</td>
<td>M Romeo</td>
<td>L Vella</td>
<td>S Orellana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S Fenato</td>
<td>T Cox</td>
<td>E Carrabs</td>
<td>C Smith</td>
<td>W Whitehouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N Carver</td>
<td>M Wright</td>
<td>Lisa Marongiu</td>
<td>N Michael</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>