



GOOD SAMARITAN CATHOLIC COLLEGE HINCHINBROOK NEWSLETTER

COLLEGE THEME 2006: "PREPARE THE WAY"

Issue 1

Friday, 2 February 2007

Dear Parents and Friends of the College,

A warm welcome back to 2007. I especially welcome all students who are new to the college and in particular our new Year 7 students. As a college we look forward to getting to know both them and their families in the future. May their time with us be fruitful for all students and their families.

At this point in time, it is my hope that students have come back to school refreshed and ready to undertake their studies in a dedicated fashion. As each term starts it is essential that students return to the college recognising the importance of making a commitment to their studies and ensuring that they strive to do their best in all that they attempt. As a college we will continue to stress the significance of commitment to personal excellence throughout 2007 and ask parents to do likewise.

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 2007 theme "**Prepare the Way**". I encourage each person at Good Samaritan to reflect on the theme and consider what this means to them as they journey through the year. There are two aspects of the theme which each person is asked to explore: Firstly, how they can use their God given talents and 'prepare the way', to the future, in all that they undertake. Secondly, how each individual is able to prepare the way with and for others. This may involve reaching out to others and supporting them on their journey. I hope that each person is prepared to take up the challenge and to make the theme a reality in their lives.

As the year came to a close in 2006 the college received the School Certificate and HSC results. The results were pleasing in many aspects. There were, however, some areas that need further development and improvement. As in the past, the staff will be reviewing approaches to the School Certificate and Higher School Certificate in order to build on our successes.

A brief summary of the results is included in this newsletter with further information included in the annual report, which will be released later this term.

A number of our students achieved outstanding results in the HSC and they deserve to be acknowledged here. Congratulations to Lisa Nguyen, Marc Ghignone, Jane Samuel and Patricia Lemos who received UAI ranks of 96.95, 90.3, 90.0 and 92.15 respectively. Their results are certainly the product of dedication to study and hard work. These students are a wonderful example of what can be done when a person works consistently to achieve their goals. Marc Ghignone also deserves special mention for achieving tenth place, in the state, in Industrial Technology.

This week the college will launch the 2007 Annual Development Plan. This plan is based on the Strategic Management Plan 2005-2008 and the Catholic Education Office Strategic Management Plan - "Towards 2010". The plan is available from the college office and may be viewed on the college website. This document will form the basis of directions in all areas of college life during 2007. Aspects of the annual plan will be addressed in coming newsletters.

This year nine new teachers have joined the staff of Good Samaritan. I welcome Mr Kingsman (English, RE, Music), Mrs. Melham, Mrs Dadd (English), Miss Boggs (Mathematics), Miss Welsh (PDHPE), Miss Najdek (PDHPE, Music and Religious Education), Mr Georgiou (Mathematics), Mr Wheeler (HSIE and Religious Education) and Mr Byrne (Science-replacing Mrs Arora during Term 1). I thank them for their willingness to join the college staff and support students on the journey to adulthood. We also welcome Mrs Barry, Mrs Burney, Mrs Celea, Mrs Flanagan and Mr Bagot back to the college on a permanent basis.

Just after Christmas we were saddened to hear that Mr Richard Chapple, father of Zoe (Year 12) and Holly (Year 9) died suddenly. I ask everyone to keep the Chapple family in your prayers during this very difficult time.

Finally, as the next chapter of the journey begins I look forward to an exciting and challenging year, working with parents to provide the best possible education for our students in 2007.

God Bless,

Mr John Lo Cascio, Principal

School Fees

The college is mindful of financial pressures on all families and has once again attempted to keep all fee increases to a minimum.

An outline of school fees for 2007 is listed below, for the convenience of parents. School fee accounts will be issued in Terms 1, 2 and 3.

Annual Tuition Fee

	1st Child	2nd Child	3rd Child
Years 7-8	\$1104	\$828	\$552
Years 9-10	\$1212	\$904	\$606
Years 11-12	\$1632	\$1224	\$816

The fourth and subsequent child concurrently enrolled in Catholic Schools is not charged Tuition fees.

College Fee

Building Levy \$324 (per family)

Student Resource Fee

Year 7-8 \$205

Years 9-10 \$135

Years 11-12 \$125

Student Sport/Transport Fee

Year 7-11 \$222

Year 12 \$67

Years 7-10

PDHPE Text \$30

College Year Book \$20

College Bible-Year 7 \$30

Careers Fee-Year 10 \$112

Elective subjects in Years 9 to 12 have associated fees which will be outlined and explained to parents with the initial fees invoice. The fee amounts above are annual totals and each should be divided by 3 to determine fees per term.

The Archdiocesan Tuition Fees provide student accident insurance cover through the Catholic Church Insurances Limited. This is 24 hour cover for school activities during school hours and other approved school activities outside school hours such as school camps, school sports, work experience and travelling to and from school.

Students Who Need To Take Leave From School

Parents and students are reminded that any extended leave that they may be planning within the school year must first be formally acknowledged by the Principal. For leave to be granted, students must complete an "Application for Leave" form available from the College Office and have it signed by a parent or guardian.

Students are then required to complete a detailed list of assessments, examination details or class work and have the KLA Co-ordinator of each subject sign the form, before submitting to the Principal for approval.

School Performance Statewide

School Certificate

Performance Bands	English Literacy	Maths	Science	Aust. History	Australian Geography
Band 4,5,6	70.5%	30%	47.5%	40%	62%

In 2006 students completed exams in English Literacy, Mathematics, Science, Australian History and Geography as well as a newly introduced Computing Skills test. The above results show the percentage of students at the college who achieved a band 4, 5 or 6. To gain a band 6 a score of 90+ was required, while a band 5 was 80+ and a band 4 was 70+. The Computing Skills test measured a student to be highly proficient (HP), proficient (P) or competent (C) and 51% of the students at the college were highly proficient.

The Higher School Certificate

The College's results in 2006 HSC were generally of a good standard, with a pleasing number of students achieving to their potential. Worthy of special mention were results in Studies of Religion, Industrial Technology, Advanced English, Textiles and Design and Modern History, where students achieved a proportion of results above State average in Band 4, 5 and 6.

HSC: All My Own Work

Performance Bands	Studies of Religion	English Standard	English Advanced	General Maths	Maths
Band 4,5,6	68%	29.5%	89.4%	34.4%	55.16%

Year 11 returned to a very intensive and productive first day with the completion of the program "HSC: All My Own Work". This program is compulsory to all students who will be sitting for their HSC in 2008 and was delivered online through the Board of Studies web site. This program was developed to ensure that students know and understand the correct way to recognise and acknowledge the work of others when they are researching and writing essays or producing major works for HSC assessment.

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

The college will be holding a Year 11 assessment information evening to provide vital information for students of Year 11 and their parents. This evening explains the role of assessment in senior years and outlines the Board of Studies and college policy on completion and submission of assessments.

Parents will find the information most helpful in understanding the expectations of the college in assessment in senior years. Students will be provided with tips on managing time when planning and submitting assessment tasks.

Preliminary HSC assessment handbooks will be distributed and all students are expected to attend along with at least one parent.

**School Certificate Assessment Evening
February 20 at 7pm**

Mrs. Cheryl Russell, the Regional Board of Studies Liaison Officer, has accepted an invitation to speak to all Year 10 students about assessment, external testing and reporting in the School Certificate year. Her entertaining presentations explain clearly the nature of external testing in the School Certificate year and students will have their responsibilities for meeting assessment requirements outlined. School Certificate assessment handbooks will be distributed and all students are expected to attend along with at least one parent.

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.

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.

2007 Opening Mass

The college will celebrate the opening Mass for 2007 on February 16. 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 2007 to be presented with their badges.

College Vehicle Access - Reminder

New security gates have been installed at the College over the Christmas break. These gates have been installed for college security and student safety. The installation of the gates will limit access to the college grounds by both vehicle and pedestrians during school hours beginning, Monday 5th February 2007.

- Parents wishing to drop students off in the morning will be required to turn right at the main roundabout into the bus bay and students may alight from the vehicle in the bus bay.
- In the afternoon, access to the college bus bay for vehicles wishing to pick students up will begin at 3.10pm. No vehicles will be allowed in the college grounds before this time unless on school business.
- The main roundabout at the entrance to the college will be "no stopping" at all times.

Parents are encouraged to drop students off and pick them up outside the college in order to reduce congestion and increase safety.

Thank you, in anticipation, for your support .

R. Grech, Acting Assistant Principal

Parenting Corner

At the New Year's Eve fireworks celebration on the harbour, the children on the stroke of 9 pm were asked to CLICK THEIR HEELS and shout THERE IS NO PLACE LIKE HOME in memory of Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz. I guess that all of us want to feel "at home" and this is never easy when we begin something new. It takes time to familiarise ourselves with different surroundings, people and expectations. We always seem to be walking a YELLOW BRICK ROAD to reach EMERALD CITY! We want to feel really "at home" with ourselves, friends and the environment, it does take time and we have to confront a few WITCHES on the way!

So to all parents, who may be feeling anxious about your children beginning, or continuing, know that we at Good Samaritan are here to help you. Like Dorothy, we all need companions on our journey. A Scarecrow, a Tin Man and a Lion were her companions, but they too, felt fearful and anxious. However, all learn in the end that they did not really need anyone to grant them their wishes because they each found what they were looking for WITHIN THEMSELVES.

Yes, we too, with the help of others and our living FAITH in our COMPASSIONATE GOD have the POWER WITHIN to feel "AT HOME", May we work together during 2007 to help our students reach their full potential.

Happy parenting,

Sr Marj Carroll



WORLD YOUTH DAY 2008 Corner

Our school theme this year, "Prepare the Way", is certainly relevant to the preparation that will be undertaken this year for the lead-up to World Youth Day in Sydney in 2008.

World Youth Day (WYD) began approximately 20 years ago, under the leadership of Pope John Paul II. He wanted to bring young Catholics from around the globe together to learn more about and celebrate their faith on a more regular basis. It occurs annually on Palm Sunday in Catholic dioceses around the world. Every 2-3 years, a massive international gathering celebrates WYD in a host country. Germany hosted 2005 and gathered 1.2 million people together. Australia's turn in Sydney is next.

Over the next 18 months, Good Samaritan will be preparing for this great celebration within the Catholic Studies curriculum as well as on a broader community scale within the College. As we await the arrival of the WYD Cross and Icon, the WYD08 theme is "As I have loved you, so should you also love one another". (Jn 13:34).

The following information explains the significance behind the WYD Cross and the Icon of Our Lady. Further information can be obtained from the website <http://www.wyd2008.org>

The WYD Cross and its pilgrimages

The World Youth Day Cross is the most significant tangible symbol of World Youth Day. Originally the idea of Pope John Paul II, the 3.8 metre high wooden Cross was built and placed as a symbol of the Catholic faith, near the main altar in St Peter's Basilica during the Holy Year of 1983. Pope John Paul gave this cross as a gift to the youth of the world, to be carried through the world as a symbol of Christ's love for humanity. Since then, the World Youth Day cross has travelled far and wide - it has been throughout Europe, the United States, Canada, South America and The Philippines, to Poland and Prague, to the German Parliament and even to Ground Zero in New York. It is truly an international symbol for Catholic youth.

The Icon of our Lady

On Palm Sunday in 2003, the Pope introduced a new element for WYD: from then on, the WYD Cross would be accompanied on its pilgrimage by the Icon of Our Lady, Salus Populi Romani. This icon, a copy of a venerated icon in Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome, was present at the Vigil and Papal Mass of WYD 2000 in Tor Vergata in Rome.

Handover of the WYD Cross and Icon of Our Lady

Following the tradition established since the first international World Youth Day, the Handover of the Cross and Icon takes place on Palm Sunday in St Peter's Square as part of the Palm Sunday Mass celebrated by His Holiness. The Cross is officially 'handed over' by youth of the last host city, to youth of the upcoming host city. As for preceding WYDs, the Cross and Icon will undertake a 'Journey of the Cross' throughout Australia and Oceania from Palm Sunday 2007 to July 2008, touching the lives of thousands of people as a sign of hope and pilgrimage.

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 (23 April) in full winter uniform.

On Monday 5 March, the college will be holding blazer fittings for all Year 7 students and placing the 2007 order for Blazers.

Students in Years 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 Monday (March 3) 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	

If any Year 7 student already has a Blazer, they should let the office staff 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 before Friday 23 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.

Centacare - Post Separation Program

Crossroads is an information evening for recently separated or divorced parents. It is designed to inform parents of the emotional, legal and financial impacts of separation and divorce. The next Crossroads evening is to be held on Tuesday February 12, 2007 at 6 pm at The Polding Centre, 1233 Liverpool Street Sydney. For further details call college office.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 6th February**
First Day Sport
- 7th February**
Year 11 Information Evening-7 pm
Year 12 Industrial Tech-Graphics & Eng
Excursion
- 10th February (Saturday)**
Year 12 Drama Excursion
- 12th February**
Year 11/12 Music Excursion
Year 7 Wine & Cheese Evening
- 15th February**
Year 11 Biology Excursion
Year 12 Anc. History & Ext. History Excursion
- 16th February**
2007 GSCC Opening Mass-OLMC Mt Pritchard

Book Packs

If there are any problems with the book packs which were distributed on Thursday 1st February, please call Endeavour Education on Tele: 9709 0000. Do not call the school, as the school does not have access to any of Endeavour's paperwork.

Uniform Shop Hours

The Uniform Shop will be open from
7.30 am to 8.30 am
Monday to Thursday
 plus
every second Tuesday of Term 1 from
12.30 pm to 3.45 pm
These dates are: 13th, 27th February
13th and 27th March.

MONDAY 05.02.07	TUESDAY 06.02.07	WEDNESDAY 07.02.07	THURSDAY 08.02.07	FRIDAY 09.02.07
N Tummarello E Hobby J Colley	D Toro A Waga L La Rosa	M Romeo E Carrabs	K Cutler G Bartolo L Bakhos	M Wright M Fraetta S Koutroubos
MONDAY 12.02.07	TUESDAY 13.02.07	WEDNESDAY 14.02.07	THURSDAY 15.02.07	FRIDAY 16.02.07
N Carver H Stacey	D Beazley T Cox	M Campisi J Roccisano	G Gerrish A De Masi S Lichaa	W Whitehouse M Ragusa R Pope