Dear Parents and Friends of the College,

Last Monday evening I attended a presentation at The Liverpool Catholic Club. The function was organised to present a financial grant related to Community Support Development Expenditure, which was approved by the Liverpool Council and funded by the Liverpool Catholic Club. The College has been given support for a Careers Program for Students at Risk and a program to facilitate Anger Management in Young People. I thank the Council for approving the projects and I am most grateful to the Catholic Club for their generous support of the College. The Directors of the Catholic Club continually seek ways to offer support to our students and their efforts have certainly been of great benefit to the College.

On Thursday, August 9, Mr Gray and 10 Year 8 students attended the NRMA TechnoPush Challenge at Eastern Creek Raceway. This event encourages students to use their talents, and recycled materials, to produce a push cart for use in the competition. The team was successful in the final, winning the Secondary Schools Design Presentation section. I congratulate the students Jema Samonte, Piero Sanchez, Michael Romeo, Anthony Tomelic, Christopher Wilder, Biljana Susnjara, Kayla Salopek, Caroline Said, Sarah Yazbeck, Jacinta Vella and Mr Gray on their wonderful efforts both in the lead up to and during the competition.

Last week I had the pleasure of presenting Gold Awards to two very deserving students; Jema Samonte and Mark Bawalan. I have been most impressed lately by the number of students receiving awards and their willingness to work hard to “Prepare the way”. Jema and Mark are certainly deserving recipients of this award.

Last Thursday, the College conducted Subject Selection Interviews for Year 11 2008. The interviewing teachers and I were most impressed by the students mature approach and their level of preparation during the process. Each student certainly recognised the seriousness of their decisions and implications of their choices. I congratulate the students and their parents on the manner in which they made these very important decisions. Next week Year 8 will also begin the process of subject selection for Year 9.

From the beginning of next week Miss Carpano, our College Counsellor, will be counselling one day per week at the College. In order to continue counselling support for students, a new counsellor, Ms Sally Curtis, will join the staff. Ms Curtis will offer counselling support to students two days a week from this Monday. The College counselling support now includes Miss Carpano one day per week, Ms Curtis two days per week and Sr Marj three and a half days per week.
Next Friday the College will support the Archdiocesan Charitable Works Fund through a Mufti Day. Charitable works support: Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Centacare, Chaplaincy Services, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Ephpheta Centre, University of Sydney Chaplaincy and Tertiary Chaplaincies. I encourage all students to support these worthy causes by being involved in the Mufti Day and making a donation.

Last Monday the College was visited by Year 6 students from Good Primary School. The visit was a continuation of the transition program established last year. The day was most productive and allowed students and teachers to gain a greater understanding of the movement from primary school to high school. The process has also been enhanced by a series of meetings between teachers from the two schools.

Last week the Bishops of NSW and the ACT released a pastoral letter inviting Catholic educational leaders, staff, parents and the broader Catholic community to reflect on the nature of Catholic Schools and where they are headed. I encourage all families to read the document, which is included with this newsletter, as it has a direct impact on the students and parents involved in Catholic Education. The Bishops have also asked people to reflect on and discuss the issues raised and, where possible, to provide feedback to them.

Next week we welcome Year 12 back to formal lessons after their trial examinations. The students are to be congratulated on the way they have approached the trials and I encourage them to continue their positive efforts up to the HSC.

God Bless

Mr J Lo Cascio
Principal

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

On Wednesday, August 15 the College celebrated the solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady. Both staff and students were given the opportunity to attend mass and to reflect on Mary and how she helps us hear the word of God, in fact she strengthens our hope in God’s promises to us.

So we pray,
That we may avoid all sin and corruption
*Here I am Lord I come to do your will*
That we may work for a world that respects the dignity of each individual
*Here I am Lord I come to do your will*
That we may bear the word of God to all we meet
*Here I am Lord I come to do your will*
That those who have died will be united with the Blessed Virgin Mary to Christ in the kingdom
*Here I am Lord I come to do your will*

Mr K Griffiths
(Religious Education Co-ordinator)

From the Assistant Principal

Silver Awards
Angela Santaguida Renee Boreta
Linda Goria Carina Bilotta
Andrew Wright x 2 Jacinta Vella x 3
Stephanie Ruiz Peter Camilleri
Bruno Romeo Joshua Bugeja x 2
Mark Bawalan x 2 Jema Samonte x 2
Caroline Said Natalie Perre
Luke Newhouse Alyssa Cook
Lauren Smith x 2 Natalie Demasi
Sarah Spadaro

Sports Photos
Sports photos will be taken on Tuesday August 28th. Students who have been in any of our representative teams should check with their coaches if any special clothing – other than the sports uniform, is required for the photo. Envelopes are available at the College office for students who wish to purchase these photos. The price of each photo is $14. It is important to give clear information as to which photos are required, e.g. instead of writing “Soccer Photo” write “U/14 Boys’ Soccer Team”.

Please note….
7th September 2007
Public Holiday in the Sydney Region
Year 9 2008 Information Night
Monday August 20th
The College will be open from 6.30pm for parents and students to view displays and talk to staff. The information session will begin at 7 pm. As essential information and forms will be given out on the night, it is vital that all students and at least one parent/guardian attend. Students should wear full school uniform on the night.

Working Bee
The College has planned a working bee for Saturday 15th September 2007. Any parents and students wishing to assist with the maintenance of the College grounds and are able to spare the time, are asked to contact the College office with their expression of interest.

Traffic
Parents are reminded that there is no stopping permitted in the main roundabout, to allow students to alight, as this causes congestion onto Hoxton Park Road. There are also a number of students late to school because of the traffic. I would ask you to take this into account in facilitating an earlier arrival.

“Helping children and young people combat peer pressure”
by Michael Grose
Children generally want to fit in to their various social groups so peer approval is a significant driver for their behaviour. For children, resisting peer influence can mean isolation or instant ostracisation so it sometimes takes great strength of will to refuse to follow the crowd. As children move toward adolescence the need to fit in with and identify with a group of peers outside their family becomes even stronger.

While the increased influence of peers is a normal part of development they can sometimes use some help to resist the pressure to conform that’s placed on them. The following ideas may assist you to help children and young people resist unwanted peer pressure:

• Talk about peer influence with your children. Be open and frank about the subject. Let them know that while much of the influence of their friends is positive, some is not in their best interests.
• Help young people say no - and still save face and status among their friends. Allow them to blame you for not letting them do something they don’t feel comfortable with but can’t admit to.

• Encourage them to think through the consequences of their decisions. When young people are put on the spot they should think about the risk factors involved and err on the side of caution. Encourage them to think “Is this behaviour smart? Is it in my best interests?”
• Avoid making your children reliant on the approval of others, including you, as the basis of their self-esteem. Allow them to feel comfortable holding opinions and views that are different to yours. Those children who constantly look for the approval of others are more suspect to negative peer influence.
• Avoid criticising your children’s friends, as he or she may take it personally. Discuss your concerns and talk about behaviours rather than personalities when you discuss their choice of friends.

It is important for parents to understand the value of peer groups and also remember that peers often have a positive influence on children and young people.

Michael Grose is a leading parent educator, a trained teacher and author.

Mr R Grech
Acting Assistant Principal

Photocopy and Print Credit
Our photocopy and print credit system is now in place. Students who print or photocopy to one of the printers at the College will be charged at the applicable rate (currently 10 cents per B&W A4 page; $1 per colour A4 page). I ask students to only print their documents when necessary. If they need to top-up their account, they should see library staff at the front desk.

New Smartboard and Computer Labs
I am pleased to announce that we have recently installed another 5 Smartboards into specific classrooms, which will allow for more classes to utilise this great resource. Smartboards enable students to interactively become part of the learning process in the Smartboard-equipped classroom, and have become an integral tool in their ICT skills development. One of our main computer labs has also been upgraded to accommodate the growing demand of ICT resources at the College. We now have 5 fully equipped computer labs along with several mini labs for the students to use.

Mr J Reyes
IT Co-ordinator
Dear Parents,

I spent last Wednesday and Friday with our Year 9s “retreating” to the John Bosco Youth Centre at St Mary’s and you could have been very impressed by your Year 9 Adolescents.

No doubt there will be other comments in this newsletter about these days but what impressed me was the way they participated so wholeheartedly in each exercise, be it spiritual, intellectual, emotional or physical – THE WHOLE PERSON.

A spiritual writer, Matthew Fox, writes about NATURAL ECSTACIES without the use of drink or drugs and our students on these days were certainly enjoying natural ecstacies – although they would probably be loath to say so! Healthy, wholesome activities or pastimes like sport, music, reading and yes times of quiet reflection can certainly contribute to these experiences.

When I was teaching in the eighties there was a play called YEAR 9 are ANIMALS – not a very flattering title but our Year 9s were a far cry from that label. They responded appropriately to each exercise in a most appropriate way.

So I guess if we can continue to channel their youthful exuberance into the right channels as our Religious Education teachers did on those days we are well on the way of helping our youth truly reach THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.

God bless you as you too continue to do just that!

Sr Marj Carroll

Year 9 2007 Retreat

On Wednesday 8th and Friday 10th August Year 9 attended a retreat at “Don Bosco Centre”.

After PC, we left school and travelled by buses to the Centre. When we arrived there we were all excited because we were greeted with a Retreat Centre that had all the necessary play equipment that a Year 9 student could dream of. The Retreat Centre had trampolines, pool tables, an indoor soccer field, table tennis tables, basketball courts and a tennis court. It also had an upstairs area which allowed us to reflect on the main purpose of our retreat and that centered around the scripture reading from Luke entitled “The Baron Fig”. Throughout the day we engaged in various activities which challenged us to think about other people. Our theme throughout the day was to acknowledge that we all have gifts to give to our community, but we must also allow other people to contribute to and develop our community as well. The scripture reading from Luke reminded us to nurture ourselves through our journey at school, but to also look for opportunities that allow us to help other people. Just as the gardener asked the owner of the vineyard for one more year to get the fig tree to bare fruit, so too we are encouraged to grow and develop ourselves and each other into students who care about people.

After we finished our activities we had lunch and went back to playing on the sporting equipment. Our day finished with a liturgy, which again reflected on “The Parable of the Baron Fig Tree” and we all had the opportunity to offer up our prayers in thanksgiving for the day.

I thought it was a really good retreat but most importantly we learnt the true meaning of the parable told by Jesus, which was that we have the opportunity to either make a difference or become destructive.

Ryan Evans, Year 9
Southern Sydney Athletics Carnival Report

On Friday 3rd August, Good Samaritan Catholic College’s athletics team trekked down to the Sylvania Waters athletics track for the annual Southern Sydney Athletics Carnival.

We had some outstanding results on the day, and a special mention must be made to our 14/15 years 4x100m boys relay team who won their event. The following students have made it through to the New South Wales Combined Catholic Colleges Athletics Carnival, to be held at Homebush in September.

**Yaw Amoahene** – 12 years boys’ 100m, 200m and 12/13 years 4x100m boys’ Relay
**John Pellegrini** – 12 years boys’ 100m
**John Kennedy** – 14 years boys’ 100m and 14/15 years 4x100m boys’ Relay
**Carmelo Ussia** – 14 years boys’ 200m
**Chris El-Hayek** – 12 years boys’ 800m
**Lana Ferreira** – 15 years girls’ Shot Put
**Kobey Martin** – 12 years girls’ High Jump

Another special mention must be made to the boys on the team. By the end of the day, they finished third in the boys’ points score. Good Samaritan Catholic College finished 6th in the combined points score at the end of the day.

Congratulations to all students who participated.

Ms D Sosimenko
Sports Co-ordinator

Mock Trial Report

Last week the College Mock Trial Team competed in the knockout stages of the competition. Making it to the knockout stages is a difficult challenge, requiring schools to go through 4 rounds undefeated. This we achieved but unfortunately we came up against a side that was very talented. We were beaten 247 – 230. A close result.

Congratulations to all team members on a great effort and I thank them for the extra hours that all had to put in.

The team was Kelly-Anne Velnic, Tiana Romeo, Stephanie Natoli, Andrew El-Zakhem Eugenio Campisi, Maryann Wright, Ashleigh Pontifex and Elizabeth Camilleri

Mr David Costin, Coach

Social Justice

The poem “Images of Poverty” was written by Maricar Capili—Year 10. This poem was entered in a writing competition held by the Charles Sturt University titled “Making a Difference”. Students were required to write on social justice issues affecting our society today.

You’ve seen photos and heard stories,
But have you really cared?
About the certain group of people
Found all across the world.

Close your eyes and imagine;
No clean water,
No food to eat,
Sleeping on the ground,
Now imagine doing this for weeks.

Close your eyes and imagine;
The hot weather on your back,
The tattered clothes you wear,
Possibly made out of a sack,
The small hut you call home,
The limited food you get to eat,
Mostly rice and vegetables that’s right no meat.

How does it feel?

Close your eyes and imagine;
And I mean really imagine,
Searching for your own breakfast from the moment you can walk;
Imagine losing your parents before you were able to talk.
Having to fend for your siblings and being all by yourself.

Close your eyes and imagine;
Going to school,
Then coming home to your siblings,
Teaching them spelling rules,
Imagine wanting to get away, from the place you call home,
Starting a new life, all on your own.

How does it feel?

You only have to imagine,
For you it’s not that hard,
You open your eyes and you’re back in paradise
But for many children and families around the world,
It’s a living reality.
The things you just imagined affect much of humanity.

Maricar Capili, Year 10
On the 25th of July, Year 7 were lucky enough to hear exciting stories told by a 63 year old man named Moses. Moses did not just tell us freaky corpse and ghost stories, but stories about the pieces of jewellery he wore and their symbolic meaning to him. Like his dragon ring which he searched for a few years after his grandmother told him a story about dragons with their tails in their mouth, being magical rings, or his skull rings that are like the ones from Phantom. Moses is a great story teller and he even made one up about a dolphin for his mate. When Moses speaks he acts the story out and makes some effects as well. He got students involved and knew what stories we wanted to hear, are we that predictable?

Desiree Bent, Year 7 La Salle

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Mr Gray’s Year 8 Technology students have been researching, designing and building a pushcart for the NRMA TechnoPush Challenge for over three months. Ten students displayed extraordinary commitment through sourcing recycled materials and working many hours after school and at home. Except for fasteners, the pushcart was made from 100% recycled components.

Last Thursday the students travelled to Eastern Creek on the school bus decorated with team signs. The “Road Runner Team” looked splendid in their team shirts and socks (thanks Mrs Salopek). Upon arrival the team set up in an F1 garage and had to fully assemble the push cart in less than 30 minutes.

In other events, the team led for most of the way, achieving a first, second and third place. There were just seconds between the place getters in the two four minute races. However, a super effort by Jacinta and Sarah meant the obstacle course was won by more than a 30% time margin. The team won the coveted “Best Secondary Team” trophy for their Design Presentation which was judged by senior Education Officers and University Academics. This prestigious award recognises the team’s management of the design process and their problem solving skills which enabled them to produce innovative solutions which exceeded the stringent requirements. Also their push cart design demonstrated a high degree of road safety awareness and minimal environmental impact.

The students were celebrities and great ambassadors on the race day. They completed four TV interviews. And, as a world first, Chris Wilder did a great job for radio 2GB when he gave a ‘race cam’ style audio commentary whilst driving and pushing a pushcart.

Congratulations to the students whose tenacity, commitment and team work ensured their success.

Thank you also to South Western Wreckers, Bob Bidner at New World Fabrications, Mr Dinkha, and the families who have supported the students throughout this enriching experience.

Mr Stuart Gray
Year 8 Year Co-ordinator

Engineering—Make It Happen

Engineering Studies students at Good Samaritan College learn about engineering principles and the scope of the engineering profession across many specialties. Students apply their skills and knowledge to solve problems relating to household appliances, landscape products, braking systems, biomedical engineering, entertainment industry, telecommunications, transport systems, civil structures, lifting devices and aeronautical engineering. Recently Michael Towell from Kellets Hobbies, Liverpool visited the College. Students had an opportunity to see and feel planes and to ask questions to clarify their understanding of aeronautical engineering principles. Students’ were impressed by Michael’s skill controlling an electronic glider through many maneuvers (with and without the motor) traveling at speeds of up to 250 km/h. What would life be like without the work of Engineers?

Mr Stuart Gray
Year Co-ordinator

Moses…The Story Teller

On the 25th of July, Year 7 were lucky enough to hear exciting stories told by a 63 year old man named Moses. Moses did not just tell us freaky corpse and ghost stories, but stories about the pieces of jewellery he wore and their symbolic meaning to him. Like his dragon ring which he searched for a few years after his grandmother told him a story about dragons with their tails in their mouth, being magical rings, or his skull rings that are like the ones from Phantom. Moses is a great story teller and he even made one up about a dolphin for his mate. When Moses speaks he acts the story out and makes some effects as well. He got students involved and knew what stories we wanted to hear, are we that predictable?

Desiree Bent, Year 7 La Salle
Senior Rugby League Report

The Senior Rugby League side recently played in the MISA Semi Final. This was held at Magdalen Catholic College, against Magdalene. Having only played 4 games in the ordinary season certainly didn’t help in our preparation for the game, yet the boys gave their all in what was a close game. Unfortunately we lost in a close game. Full credit to the boys as the commitment and dedication was evident in a game that marks the end of the school footballing career of the Year 12 students. Having coached most of these boys since year 8, I can confidently say that we can all be proud of the efforts that they have given over the past few years. They were the first side to win a game in the CBSSA Competition, the first side to make the semi finals in the CBSSA Competition, and the first side to make the semi finals in the MISA Competition.

Congratulations to all players

The Team was:
Andrew El Zahkem, Wadih Baz, Jonathon Tupuola, James Boulatsakos, Brian Dalger, Anthony Montague, Thomas Kennedy (c), Tommy Hoang, Diego Oyarzun, Daniel Halls, Aaron Colley, John Favretti, Greg Campbell, Alex Theodoridis, Daniel Oaten, KevinLatoure, Carlos Rojo, John Cassone, Nathaniel Barbuto, Paul Messina, Carlos Hafed and Josh Whiteford

Mr D Costin
Team Coach

Combined Catholic Colleges Soccer

Last Thursday the Girls’ Year 7 – 10 Soccer Side competed in the Quarter Final of the State wide NSW CCC Cup. Having defeated Freeman the round before, we trained for several weeks in preparation for the game against St Columbas’ College from Springwood. St Columbas’ College was a well drilled and organised side, sporting some very talented players. The game was see-sawing with both sides having good opportunities. Unfortunately, with 3 minutes to go, we conceded a goal and eventually lost 1-0. Congratulations to all the girls for making it this far, training for so long without a game, and for the great spirit in which you entered the competition.

Congratulations to all players

The team was:
Natalie Spresian, Montana Bolzan, Amanda Bittman, Magella Barbuto, Courtney Zappala, Domenica Marasco, Jessica Ciccone, Haylee Ingle, Jennifer Papallo (c), Kristy Walker, Latoya Walker, Bianca Addatini, Kobey Martin, Lana Ferreira, Laura Giansante, Elizabeth Si and Isabella Pezutto.

Mr D Costin
Team Coach

WYD 2008 CORNER
340 DAYS TO GO!

Artwork for WYD Countdown
Three talented artists – Luen Samonte (Yr 10), Vivian Phantharangsi and Nhi Tran (Yr 11) have been busy designing and painting two canvases about the theme of WYD over the last few weeks. A few finishing touches still need to be applied to these masterpieces. Thanks to these students for the tremendous amount of time and effort that they have put into these works. Photos will displayed in the next newsletter.

Catch the Wave
The latest edition of “Catch the Wave”, a publication of the Catholic Education Office, Sydney, is attached to this newsletter. This publication provides an insight into what other schools in the Sydney Archdiocese are doing to prepare the way for World Youth Day 2008.

Pilgrims Support Partnership Program
The PSSP is an initiative of the WYD office. This initiative is a fundraising venture to raise funds to bring as many young people from the Oceania region, whom otherwise would not be able to afford to come, to participate and join in the program of WYD in Sydney in 2008. Countries like Australia, who are considered first world countries, have committed to be pilgrim partners. All schools in the Sydney Archdiocese will be assigned a school community in the Oceania region to help in raising funds for young people in these poorer communities. This will enable these people to experience the “power of the Holy Spirit” at WYD08.

As a school community, we will be looking towards developing this fundraising initiative during the later part of this term and next term. In addition, this fundraiser will hopefully help also to subsidise our own students in attending this great event.

Our gelato day held in Term 2 began the fundraising for this venture.

World Youth Day Prayer Focus for August
In the month of August, the prayer focus is for young people to respond with courage and generosity to their vocational call given at Baptism. We especially pray for those who have been called into the priesthood and religious life.

Prayer for Vocations
Creator God,
Life is your gift to us,
Through Baptism, You invite us to share the gift of our lives in service to others.
Be with us as we choose each day to show your presence in our world.
Give us the courage and generosity to respond to your love and to your call.
We pray especially for those who serve You as priests, brothers, sisters and deacons.
Open the minds and hearts of many other men and women that they may accept your call.

Prayer for Vocations
Miss A Darmody, WYD 2008 Co-ordinator
The Sydney Federation of Catholic School Parents Invites you to:

It’s not the falling down but the getting up that counts!
How can parents establish a blend of clear expectations and consequences with a high degree of support for their adolescent children? A 90 minute session to explore the skills of restorative parenting, facilitated by presenters from the Marist Youth Centre.

To be held 4th September in two different locations:
- Revesby Worker’s Club
  The Waratah Room
  7.15 pm to 9.15 pm
- St Mary’s Cathedral College
  7.15 pm to 9.15 pm

Cost: Free to parents whose school is a Federation Member. All others $10.
Bookings essential: Margaret Anderson on Tele: 9568 8219 / Fax: 9568 8470

Google is running a competition to design a “doodle” logo for their homepage that represents “MyAustralia”. The competition is open to Australian school students in Years 7 to 10.
Please see Ms Nash for all details.

Families Together is funded by the NSW Department of Community Services and sponsored by Fairfield City Council.
Parents are invited to free information evenings as follows:

IS PARENTHOOD WORKING FOR YOU
Thursday 30th August at 11.45 am

BULLYING AWARENESS
Wednesday 22nd August at 6.30 pm

TWEENIES SMOOTHING THE ROAD TO THE TEEN YEARS
Wednesday 29th August at 6.30 pm
Venue: Cabramale Leisure Centre, Cabramatta
All enquiries: Tele: 9724 7875

Doodle for Google Competition...

If you have any spare time, the canteen needs your help!