Dear Parents and Friends of the College,

Last Saturday I had the pleasure of attending the Quota International Student of the Year Quest. The College was represented by Maryann Wright, who had previously won the district final. The afternoon was inspiring and I was impressed by every applicant, each of whom was a credit to both their school and district. Although not the eventual winner, Maryann performed extremely well and is to be congratulated on her effort. I thank and congratulate Maryann and her family on the performance. I also thank Ms Wright and Mrs Flanagan for supporting Maryann last Saturday.

Next week the College will come together to celebrate Good Samaritan Day, and to launch The Values Forum at the College. Good Samaritan Day provides an opportunity to celebrate who we are, as a College community, and our commitment to “Journeying with Compassion”. The day is as much a celebration as an opportunity to reach out to others. Added to the celebration this year is the launch of the Values Forum as mandated by the Federal Government. The Values Forum allows us to integrate The National Values Framework with the values that the College promotes. These values will be highlighted in a video presentation created by teachers and students at the College.

As in previous years, the formal ceremony will be followed by fundraising for charity and a concert featuring the talented staff and students of Good Samaritan. I take this opportunity to invite parents to Good Samaritan Day to celebrate with us as part of our College community.

Over the next few weeks the College staff will be reviewing our plans for the future and creating a new Strategic Management Plan for the period 2008 to 2012. The process will involve consultation with staff, parents and students. This is a very important process in planning for the future and will have a significant impact on the direction of the College over the next 5 years.

As this term concludes the students in Year 12 will complete their formal education at the College. All students have finished their practical examinations, with Music being completed last week. Next week Year 12 begin their final week which will include farewells and an outreach day. This is a time of celebration of “what has been and what will be”, it is also very much a community celebration. As part of our community it is important that Year 12 parents realise that they are as much a part of these celebrations as the students and, as such, are invited to both of the evening celebrations. It is also essential that our whole community is aware that we encourage parents to celebrate these milestones with their children.

Last week the College recognised National Literacy and Numeracy Week in classes and in various activities during recess and lunch. This week provided a good opportunity to reflect on literacy and numeracy, however, students are reminded that these aspects of education need continual emphasis at all times and in all subjects.
A reminder that our Working Bee will take place tomorrow. Any help would be appreciated!

God Bless,

Mr J Lo Cascio
Principal

From the Assistant Principal

Injections
A reminder to girls in Years 10, 11 and 12 the final injection for the HPV is due on Monday 24th September. It is essential for the girls to receive the full course of injections for it to be effective.

Mr R Grech, Acting Assistant Principal

Parenting Corner

Recently our Prime Minister, Mr Howard sent to every home a booklet about TALKING WITH OUR KIDS ABOUT DRUGS. It was quite informative and hopefully helped you and your children communicate on this level. Another area, likewise important, is to talk with your adolescents about sex. Michael Grose, a leading parent educator, states that speaking to young people about sex is embarrassing but a necessity. A teenager’s perception of sex and sexuality can be skewed by incorrect or misleading information that comes from many sources, including: magazines, television and other teenagers. Parents need to provide young people with accurate information so they can act safely and responsibly.

Talking about sexuality covers a wide range of topics extending beyond the issue of biology. It includes issues such as emotions and feelings, relationships, gender roles, sexuality and values.

Young people usually love to have discussions about sexuality, relationships and sexual behaviour as long as the talk doesn’t focus on THEM.

Discussing issues helps young people to know your VALUES and understand the reasons behind your beliefs. Young people may at first reject their parents’ values but they often return to them later in adolescence or early adulthood.

There appears to be a number of traits shared by parents who are able to talk openly about sexual issues with their children:

- Parents give factual, truthful answers to children’s questions.
- Parents listen to their children.
- Children are able to voice their opinions about sexual issues.
- Parents use real life opportunities to engage children in discussions about sexuality.

Talking to kids about sex is hard work. Parents need both the processes in place to communicate with kids and the confidence to engage them about personal matters. These are their precious years – make the most of them.

God give you all the graces you need!

Sr Marj Carroll

Social Justice Sunday

The Australian Catholic Bishops’ Conference has designated Sunday, 30th September 2007 as Social Justice Sunday. The theme for this year’s statement is “Who is my neighbour?” the question posted to Jesus by a lawyer. Jesus’ answer was the parable of the Good Samaritan (Lk:10:29-37).

The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council’s website (www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au) will soon have resources which can be downloaded free of charge.

Further information will also be available on RE Online.

Further information may be obtained from Agatha Shotam on 9568 8419 at CEO Leichhardt.
Over the course of the term, the library has remained open until 7pm on Tuesdays for all Year 11 and, more recently, Year 12 students to study using the resources of the library and staff. Support students have also been able to work together in preparing for examinations and this collegial approach has been of benefit for many students. It has been great to see so many of our senior students take advantage of this opportunity to improve on their results and we hope to see a continuation in this endeavour in the future.

Miss M Walker & Mr D Costin
Year 12 & 11 Co-ordinators

This week, World Youth Day will become the focus of all CAS classes to raise student awareness about what WYD actually is and how they can get involved. Students will have the opportunity to view a DVD of WYD, and listen to and view the film clip to WYD Anthem “Receive the Power” by Guy Sebastian and Paulini. Students will also have the opportunity to play a WYD Trivia Game to enhance their knowledge and understanding of WYD.

All students are reminded that they can get involved by joining the WYD Student Committee. Meetings are held during the second half of lunch every Thursday, in Room C5. All are welcome.

Miss A Darmody
WYD08 Co-ordinator

On the 27th August 2007, the Year 11 Visual Arts classes engaged in a wonderful double period of artistic practice. We participated in a Mixed Media Workshop conducted by Kathy Paquet from Eckersley’s Arts Crafts and Supplies. We undertook many mixed media activities using mediums such as masking fluid, modeling compound, wax tiles, watercolour paints, inks, encaustic art and MM7.

Encaustic Art consisted of using various coloured wax tiles smeared onto an iron then rubbed onto paper, producing a very abstract effect. Another media we learnt to use was MM7. This media allowed us to transfer images onto canvas, fabrics and textiles.

The highlight of the Mixed Media Workshop was working with ink and seeing how ordinary domestic products such as glad wrap, salt, vinegar and detergent can separate different colours within ink and produce different effects and textures.

We would like to thank Kathy Paquet, Ms Nash and Miss Armen for providing us with the opportunity to engage in this Mixed Media Workshop and open us up to the wonderful world of mixed media.

Written by: Dario Rossi (Year 11)
Toastmasters

On Monday 13th August, students of Good Samaritan started a 15 week course, Toastmasters. During the first session of the course we were introduced to the experienced Distinguished Toastmaster, Richard Shore. Throughout this session Richard taught us the advantages of undertaking this course, including the building of confidence when public speaking, and improving and enhancing a higher self esteem. He introduced us to the many different types of speeches; persuasive, story, initiative and impromptu.

In these sessions we are divided into groups, depending on which speech is to be conveyed. These groups are A, B, C. “A” conveying a prepared speech “B” and “C” evaluating and completing impromptu speaking.

These tasks enable us to feel more confident when speaking in front of others.

Written by: Erika Brocklehurst, Alyssa Cook and Johann Kamalaneson

Information Technology

NetAlert and Free Internet Filtering Software

NetAlert is part of the Australian Government’s ongoing commitment to providing a safe online environment for all families, especially children. Parents can procure free filtering software that is downloadable from NetAlert’s web site. It will help protect your child from accessing inappropriate sites. NetAlert’s web site is found at: http://www.netalert.gov.au/

Student ID Cards

Students are reminded that they need to bring their ID cards to school every day. These cards are important in the use of resources such as the library and photocopying. In the near future, the cards will also be used for the management of student attendance.

Mr J Reyes
IT Co-ordinator

GSCC Science Competition Results

Congratulations to our NSW University Science Competition achievers. This year we have awarded our students with awards based on their position in the school. All these students either received a Distinction or a Credit across the Australia-wide competition. If there are two students in a position this indicates the same result for both students.

Mr T Bagot
Science Co-ordinator

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<th>Place</th>
<th>Year Seven</th>
<th>Year Eight</th>
<th>Year Nine</th>
<th>Year Ten</th>
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<tr>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td>Sheron Edirsinghe</td>
<td>Pierre Estephan</td>
<td>Dylan De Hoedt Paolo Marcocci</td>
<td>Robert Borg</td>
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<td>2nd Place</td>
<td>Mark Kalway Joseph Iaconis</td>
<td>Bruno Romeo Claudio Carrasco</td>
<td>Daniel Smith</td>
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<td>3rd Place</td>
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<td>Angelo Urso</td>
<td>Monique Barnes Kweku Aikins</td>
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Congratulations to Alex Carver

On winning a Gold and Silver Medals at the NSW 2007 Australian Junior Road Cycling Championships held in Canberra recently.

School Fees

Term 3 school fees are now due for payment. Payment may be made by BPay, EFTPOS, cash or cheque. If parents are unable to meet fee payment/schedules please contact Mr Lo Cascio or Mr Archer to discuss options.
**Parenting in Practice**

Chris Langridge and Joe Degeling, on behalf of the Berne Education Centre would like to invite parents to the launch of Berne's newest resource for families…

**Parenting in Practice**

To be launched by Mr Greg Smith, SC MP Member of Epping, Shadow Attorney General, Shadow Minister for Justice, Shadow Minister of Juvenile Justice

When: Wednesday, October 31st
Time: 9.30 am—10.30 am
Where: The Champagnat Room
Berne Education Centre
1 Thomas Street, Lewisham
A short morning tea will follow the launch
RSVP: Wednesday 24th October
Phone: 9560 9260

“Parenting in Practice is a 72 page booklet which aims to offer supportive advice to parents of children and adolescents. It demonstrates common sense strategies to parenting through detailed text, examples and scenarios”.

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**GSCC Acknowledgement—Ursuline Presence in Australia**

This week the Ursuline Nuns will celebrate 125 years in Australia. This year also represents 200 years since Sister Angela Merici (founder of the Ursulines) was canonised.

The College acknowledgement these two milestones with Sr Marj Carroll at a morning tea on Wednesday.