



GOOD SAMARITAN CATHOLIC COLLEGE HINCHINBROOK NEWSLETTER

COLLEGE THEME 2006: "PREPARE THE WAY"

Issue 2

Friday, 16 February 2007

Dear Parents and Friends of the College,

This morning the college community joined to celebrate the Opening School Mass for 2007 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church. This Mass provided an opportunity to begin the year as a community, acknowledge the student leaders and welcome new students. During the Mass students were also reminded of the 2007 theme "**Prepare the Way**". The challenge to prepare the way has now been issued to all at Good Samaritan. It is my hope, that at the end of the year, students will be able to look back satisfied that they have made a commitment to bringing the theme to life.

I thank Father Pat and the staff, students and parents who helped to make today's celebration so meaningful.

At the end of last year the college adopted a new approach to leadership and elected class leaders, who accepted their roles in Term 4. Each of the year groups then elected two of the class leaders to become members of the Student Representative Council. The role of these representatives is to speak for their house and year group at a whole school level. I congratulate each of the leaders on their election to these positions and acknowledge the confidence that the staff and students have in these people. The names of the SRC members, senior leaders and class representatives are included in this newsletter.

Over the last week the new arrangements for the entry of traffic into the college have been in place. Although there has been an unavoidable delay in the operation of the security gates, it was decided to go ahead with the advertised arrangements. The changes have certainly improved both student safety and traffic flow. I sincerely thank all parents for their co-operation in adhering to the changes. This has made the college a much safer environment for the arrival and departure of students.

Last Monday evening the parents of Year 7 students joined the staff for a "Welcome and Information Evening". This evening provided a wonderful opportunity to meet with Year 7 parents and provide them with information related to their children and the college. This

opportunity was appreciated by both parents and teachers alike. A meeting of this nature affords the opportunity to emphasise the importance of the partnership between teachers and parents in the education of young people in our care. A positive partnership between parents and teachers will certainly enhance the education of students at Good Samaritan.

One way to ensure that the partnership is productive is to ensure that communication is meaningful and occurs where necessary. Teachers are aware of the importance of communication and will make every effort to keep parents informed of student progress, either via the diary, in writing or with a phone call. I encourage parents to communicate with the college on any issues that may be of concern.

If parents have an issue and need to approach the college they should contact the subject teacher or the student's pastoral care teacher in the first instance. If the issue is not resolved the next step should be to contact the subject or year co-ordinator, depending on the issue. I encourage parents to make contact as early as possible in order to resolve issues.

Over the past two weeks, I have been very impressed with the way the majority of students have worn their uniform on their return to the college this year. I thank parents for ensuring that students adhere to the uniform standards and look forward to this continued support throughout the year.

Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday which is the beginning of Lent. Lent provides an opportunity for each of us to improve ourselves and our relationship with our God, as well as an opportunity to be more Christ like and reach out to others. I encourage everyone to reflect on the true purpose of Lent and to ensure that the Lenten season has a meaningful impact on our lives. Included in this newsletter is the Cardinal's message to all Catholics at the beginning of Lent.

At the end of next week the college will farewell Mr Zuman. Mr Zuman has been appointed Learning Support Co-ordinator at Clare Catholic High School. I thank Mr Zuman for his

dedication and the wonderful support he offered to students during his time at the college.

God Bless,

Mr John Lo Cascio, Principal

Attendance at Information Evenings and Parent Teacher Evenings

Each year there are a number of Information Evenings and Parent Teacher Student Interview Evenings conducted for each Year Group. It is an expectation of the college that students and at least one parent attend each function. If, for any reason, parents and students are unable to attend the evening they should inform the appropriate Year Co-ordinator in writing. These evenings are conducted to support students and it is essential that they are in attendance.

Good Samaritan College Dux of 2006

Congratulations - Lisa Nguyen

who was acknowledged as Dux of the College at the Opening Mass.

Lisa achieved a UAI of 96.95.

Congratulations Joel McTaggart Blues Award Winner

Next week, Joel McTaggart of Year 9 Merici will be presented with the prestigious Blues Award. This award acknowledges the outstanding performances of elite athletes in Catholic Schools. I congratulate Joel on the receipt of this award and his wonderful accomplishments in the area of diving.

Religious Education

The school community asked for God's blessing on the school year in celebrating our opening Mass today. Father Pat, presided over the Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Mount Pritchard.

During the gospel we listened to John the Baptist proclaiming the importance of Preparing the Way for the coming of Christ and we were encouraged throughout the Gospel to make 'His paths straight'.

During the Mass we also commissioned our school leaders and student representative members. They were reminded of the importance of serving the school community and attempting to listen to all students concerns and celebrate their successes.

Finally, our new and year seven students were officially welcomed into the Good Samaritan community and were presented with their Bibles. They were reminded that they now carry the word of God everywhere they go and they were encouraged to promote the Gospel values that are found in the New Testament.

The Opening Mass really established the theme of the year, which is to 'Prepare the Way'.

Mr K Griffiths, RE Co-ordinator

From the Assistant Principal

Year 7 Vaccinations

Parents will shortly receive a pack giving information about the vaccinations which will be offered by the South Western Sydney Area Health Service to our Year 7 students on Thursday March 1st. Please ensure that you read all information carefully and have the consent forms returned to the college by the 23rd February.

New Traffic Arrangements

Thank you to parents for their assistance in implementing the new traffic arrangements. A reminder that all students being dropped off in the morning are to alight in the bus bay. Parents are asked not to stop in the main roundabout to allow students to exit from the vehicle.

Uniform

Included in this issue of the newsletter is a copy of the uniform expectations for 2007. I would encourage parents to become familiar with these expectations and ensure that students have a clear understanding of the uniform requirements for 2007. A copy of the uniform expectations can also be found on the college website under General Information as well as in the student diary.

Mr R Grech, Acting Assistant Principal

Parenting Corner

I have not yet met a parent who makes claim to be an expert on *Parenting* and when I told my niece, a mother of two grown-up girls and also a teacher, that I was writing a *Parenting Column* she rightly questioned my qualifications! However, she did admit that her teaching had helped her parenting skills and so I guess that 30 years in teaching adolescents and 10 of those years caring for boarders does give me a few "*Brownie Points*". So together, parents and school can make a reasonable success if supporting children in their adolescent development.

There is no doubt that the typical parent leads an extra-ordinarily busy life. It is very tempting to leave school to the teachers and conserve energy for other important matters. Yet if our school is to do its best, the ongoing interest and involvement of parents is essential.

Experience and research tell us some truths that are worth reflecting on.

1. A student's performance is strongly influenced by his or her parents' attitude to the school.
2. Achievement levels tend to rise when parents are seen to be interested and involved in their child's schooling.
3. Parental involvement can increase good will and help develop a real sense of community within the school.

We, and your child then continue to welcome your interest, encouragement and support.

Be Blessed,
Sr Marj Carroll

Student Leaders 2007

Congratulations

College Captains

Vanessa Pretila & Jared Ingle

Year 8

Bruno Romeo, Alyssa Cook, Angela Castillo, Giuseppe Camera, Erika Brocklehurst, Aldric Angeles, Jacinta Vella, Johann Kamalaneson, David Fonseca, Antoinetta Raco, Steven Pham, Caroline Said

Year 9

Latoya Walker, Kayla Arndell, Steven Catanea, Jessica Ciccone, Joseph Gerace, Elizabeth Si, Anthony Pellegrini, Kassandra Gore, Mariano Salvati, Louise Doculara, Anthony El-Zakhem

Year 10

Natalie Genova, Anthony Thepsombandith, Lisa Petro, Laura Donaldson, Jessie Lavulo, Anthony Giansante, Danielle McPherson, Patrick Scullino, Haylee Ingle, Jarrod Orellana, Jade O'Brien, Mariecar Capili

Year 11

Elyce Coluccio, Tiana Romeo, Matthew Alverne, Reiko Aguilar, Anthony Endravian, Michelle Harrison, Eugene Campisi, Sandra Jajou, Elisa Gatto, Dominique Tolomeo, Andrew El-Zakhem, Maryanne Wright

Year 12

Amy Iheakanwa, Dino Romeo, Andrew Papallo, Vanessa Pretila, Joshua Kamalaneson, Jared Ingle, Victoria Mammone, Amy-Lee Wulf

Careers News

Welcome to all of our students, parents and staff for 2007. In this column, you may:

- find information about programs and opportunities for career development,
- stay up-to-date with what is happening in Vocational Education and Training courses and
- discover opportunities to become involved in inventing your own future.

Your Careers Committee

Year 12 Work Placement, Feb 19th- 23rd 2007

Nine Year 12 Hospitality students will complete 35 hours of work place training as part of the Hospitality 240 hour course next week. Having already completed one week of work placement last year, this mandatory experience will allow students to fulfill course requirements. We appreciate the support of local businesses such as Liverpool Catholic Club, South Western Sydney Private Hospital, Serco Sodexo, Gemelle Ristorante Italiano and Rashays who generously accommodate our students.

UMAT2007: The Undergraduate Medicine & Health Sciences Admission Test is a compulsory part of the selection process for several medicine, dentistry and associated degrees & will take place on Wednesday 25 July 2007. REGISTRATIONS FOR UMAT2007 OPEN IN EARLY APRIL 2007 AND CLOSE AT 5.00PM AEST ON FRIDAY 1 JUNE. Contact the UMAT Office in mid-April to obtain a copy of the Information Booklet and Registration Form OR order copies ONLINE from late March.

Phone: (03) 9277 5746 / Fax: (03) 9277 5757
Email: umat@acer.edu.au Website: <http://umat.acer.edu.au/>

ShowBiz 2007: Attend talks by some of Australia's entertainment professionals about Career Planning, Film, TV, Radio - including pre and post-production and insights from behind the scenes. Visit booths from Australia's top industry resources and schools including: Acting, Singing, Dancing, Film, Radio, TV, Camera, Lighting, Sound, Casting, Production, Directing, Advertising, Trade Schools, Trade Organisations. Live demonstrations, performances & competitions!

Dates: 2,3&4 March 2007 Location: Acer Arena, Sydney Olympic Park HOMEBUSH Admission: \$20 per half day session.

Email: info@wereinshowbiz.com

Website: <http://www.wereinshowbiz.com>

Creative Competition! Open to NSW residents aged 16 to 25 years, Play Now Act Now is a film/video, graphic design and writing competition for young people. Entries close 23 February.

Play Now Act Now is a health education initiative that invites young people to produce creative resources focusing on issues associated with the usage of alcohol and other drugs. Competition entries will explore the values, attitudes and behaviours young people have towards alcohol and other drugs. Ten finalists from each category will be premiered in Sydney during Youth Week 2007 followed by a state-wide tour. Great Prizes!! **COMPETITION CLOSES 23 FEBRUARY 2007.** Follow the link for further info AND Entry Forms.

Phone: 02 9361 5318 / Fax: 02 9361 5320

Email: playnowactnow@metroscreen.org.au

Website: <http://www.playnowactnow.net.au/>

Mr S Berry, Careers Adviser

WYD 2008 Corner—513 days to go...

Last week, advertisements were placed in the student messages and read in pastoral care class, asking for students interested in forming a WYD Student Committee in our college. A "Sign Up" meeting was held on Thursday, and the response from students was overwhelming. The response was so great that Good Samaritan will be hosting 2 student committees – a senior one (Years 10-11) and a junior one (Years 7-9).

These student committees will inform the College about aspects of WYD08, actively promote it and encourage others to become involved. All good ideas are welcome! If students are interested in becoming involved or want to find out more about WYD, its not too late! They should listen out for the daily student messages in PC, for the relevant Senior or Junior Student Committee and come along to the meeting.

Further general information about WYD can be obtained from the website <http://www.wyd2008.org>.

Miss A Darmody
WYD 2008 Co-ordinator



Mock Trial Competition

This year the College has entered the NSW Law Society's Mock Trial competition. This event occurs over the course of Term 1 and hopefully we will make it through to the knock-out stage. The competition enhances the students understanding of the legal system as well as gives an insight into the happenings of a case. Congratulations and good luck to the following students who have been selected.

- Eugene Campisi
- Andrew El Zakhem
- Kelly-Anne Velnic
- Stephanie Natoli
- Tiana Romeo
- Maryann Wright
- Juliette Iaconis
- Ashleigh Pontifex
- Elizabeth Camilleri

Mr David Costin, Co-ordinator

Funding of Catholic Schools

Financial assistance from government

The Federal government funds students in Catholic Parish and Regional schools at 58% of the average cost of educating a student in government schools across Australia. The NSW State government funds our students at about 25% of government school costs. The difference is made up by fees, building levies and other charges paid by parents, as well as by support from parishes.

Senior Drama Students Attend Onstage!

On Saturday 10th February, 6 Drama students from Years 11 and 12 went to see "Onstage!" at the Seymour Centre in Sydney. "Onstage!" is a selection of outstanding individual and group performances from the 2006 HSC Examination in Drama. We saw some entertaining theatre from a variety of schools. The standard of performance skills in voice, movement, comedy and drama was excellent. In the theatre foyer area was a display of outstanding individual projects in Design - Costume, Set, Poster and Program and Critical Analysis, Theatre Reviews and Directors' portfolios. The day was very worthwhile in helping senior drama students understand the requirements of the HSC Drama examination.

Thank you to the following students for giving up their Saturday to attend: Kassandra Martinez, Anthony Montague, Jessica Neilson, Renee Saliba (Year 12) Rebecca Tinoco and Rachel Wheeler (Year 11).

Ms B Wright, Drama Teacher

Technology News

SmartBoard Rooms

I am pleased to announce that the installation of our SmartBoards has been finalised, and they were first used at Monday night's Year 7 Information Evening. This great technology resource will provide an effective way of implementing ICT skills into each key learning area. It will give all students and teachers endless possibilities to share and present knowledge and understanding creatively.

Technology Acceptable Use Policy

I remind all parents to make sure the Technology Acceptable Use Policy in the diary is read and signed. It is important that this policy is understood by both the student and parent/guardian to make sure the technology resources in the college are used appropriately.

GSCC Online

Parents are reminded that the newsletter, along with other documents, which include curriculum and general information can be downloaded from the college website. It is updated on a daily basis and is the area to check for any live updates (e.g. swimming carnival postponement). The website address is: www.goodsamaritan.nsw.edu.au

Mr J Reyes, IT Co-ordinator

Ash Wednesday - 21st February Parish Mass Times

Good Shepherd Parish, Hinchinbrook

9.15 Mass

12.15 Liturgy

7pm Evening Mass

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Mount Pritchard

8 am Italian Mass

9.15 am School Mass

10.30 am Liturgy

6 pm Vietnamese Mass

7 pm English Mass

Holy Spirit Parish, Canes Hill

9 am & 7 pm Mass

St Francis Xavier, Lurnea

9.30 am & 7 pm Mass

Free Parents' Workshop

Helping Learner drivers Become Safer Drivers

To help with practical advice about:

- Supervising learner drivers
- Completing the Learner Driver Log book
- The benefits of driving practice

The RTA has set up FREE 2 hour workshops for parents and other supervisors of learner drivers.

Next workshop: Liverpool City Council

Wednesday 7 March 2007 6 pm

Administration Centre, 1 Hoxton Park Road

Bookings Essential on tele: 9821 8835

Parents are Warned about back to school Asthma "Spike"

(Brief summary Media Release from Parliamentary Secretary for Health, Paul McLeay and the Asthma Foundation NSW)

"Parents of children with asthma should be extra vigilant as they return to school. Statistics reveal an annual back to school "spike" in asthma related hospitalisations, the peak coming about two weeks after school starts.

In February we see a higher rate of children with Asthma attacks going to hospital emergency departments and being admitted, compared to other months in the year.

Data since 1933 shows this phenomenon occurs about every 2-3 weeks in NSW with major peaks in 1966, 1999, 2001 and a lesser peak in 2006.

One in 6 children has Asthma. It is the most common medical condition affecting Australian school children.

If parents have any questions, they can log onto www.asthmasw.org.au or call the Asthma Information Line on 1800 645 130 or speak to their family doctor.

Free School Sporting Injuries Insurance for NSW School Children

Did you know that the NSW Government provides free sporting injuries insurance for all school children?

Who is covered? All enrolled school children in NSW.

What does the Scheme cover? The Supplementary sporting injuries Benefit covers death and serious injuries for children injured participating in school sport.

What if there is a serious injury? All serious injuries must be reported to the Principal and forms filled in.

For more information Refer website: www.sportinginjuries.nsw.gov.au or call (02) 4321 5392.



DATES TO REMEMBER

- 19-23rd February
Year 12 Work Placements
- 20th February (Shrove Tuesday)
School Certificate Information Evening at 7 pm
- 21st February - Ash Wednesday
- 23rd February
Year 11 Visual Arts Excursion
- 27 February
Year 11/12 Social Justice Excursion
- 1st March
Year 7 Vaccinations
- 2nd March
GSCC Swimming Carnival
- 5th March
Blazer Fitting
- 7th March
Staff Development Day

Calling All Good Shepherd Youth

If you are interested in joining the roster, participate in Altar Serving and have received First Holy Communion—for all details please contact Tivoli Vaiotu on 0416 633 322.

Good Shepherd Parish Hoxton Park

If you have a child ready to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation or First Holy Communion, you must attend the Registration Meeting on the 27th February at 7.30 pm.

If you would like to join the Sacramental Team meeting it is scheduled for 20th February at 9 am.

Registration for the Sacrament of Confirmation is on the 27th March at 7.30 pm.

Thank you, **Father Joseph**

MONDAY 19.2.07	TUESDAY 20.2.07	WEDNESDAY 21.2.07	THURSDAY 22.2.07	FRIDAY 23.2.07
A Marcocci L Versi	D Ingle T Pontifex T Martin	M Keir J Short	L Vella C Smith N Michael	D Caruana D Segatto R Romeo
MONDAY 26.2.07	TUESDAY 27.2.07	WEDNESDAY 28.2.07	THURSDAY 01.3.07	FRIDAY 02.3.07
L Tomelic M Macri R Origlia	L Fasogiannis T Zanetic V Sgro	R Criniti L Dwarto	N Puglisi J Vartuli A Macias	Swimming Carnival

There will be **no meat** served at the Canteen on Ash Wednesday 21st February 2007. Please see canteen noticeboard for special menu for this day.