Dear Parents and Friends of the College,

Over the last two weeks there have been two significant events involving parents at Good Samaritan. On Tuesday of this week the annual thank you to parent helpers was conducted at the College. This evening was conducted to thank those parents who have made a significant contribution to the College throughout the year. Without the generous support of these parents, the College would have difficulty meeting the needs of our students in a number of areas. I am most grateful to these parents for their support and willingness to help when the need arises.

The second event involving parents was conducted on Tuesday 20th November, when the Parent Consultation committee met for the final time this year. The Committee considered the responses to the parent, student and partner surveys recently conducted for the Strategic Management Plan. The group also gave their impressions of the College performance this year. The input of this group of parents has been invaluable in giving feedback and responding to directions throughout 2007 and I thank each of them for their involvement. In 2008, due to the effectiveness of the group, the College will continue with the same parent structure. I invite any parents who wish to nominate to be part of The Parent Consultation Committee, in 2008, to submit their names to me via the office before the end of this year. I would like to have representatives from each year group and keep the committee to a workable size. As a result I may not be able to accommodate all parents who nominate this year, however, parents who nominate may be able to join the group in subsequent years.

Last Wednesday the leaders of the College (2008) met for the first of two twilight “Leadership” afternoons. The aim of the event was to enable students to explore the notion of leadership, to consider who the Student Council representatives will be and to set goals for 2008. It was wonderful to witness the enthusiasm of these young people and after seeing them in action, I am sure that they will lead the student body in a mature and confident manner throughout next year. I thank Mr. Costin and the Year Co-ordinators, for the organisation of the afternoon and the students for the manner in which they were involved.

Last Friday, I had the pleasure of watching a number of students delivering speeches after completing the Toastmasters Course, which was offered at the College during this term. It was certainly gratifying to be present at these speeches as they highlighted the talents that many of our students possess. More importantly I was impressed by the commitment of the students involved in Toastmasters. This was not simply a one off event, students needed to commit themselves throughout the term for one hour per week. I was certainly pleased to see that there is a willingness of students to make a concerted effort to improve themselves. I congratulate the students on the completion of the course and thank the organiser, Mrs Marcellienus. I also thank Mr Richard from Toastmasters for leading the series of afternoon lectures and Mr Dinkha and Mr Dominish for their support.

GOOD SAMARITAN CATHOLIC COLLEGE
HINCHINBROOK

NEWSLETTER

COLLEGE THEME 2007: “PREPARE THE WAY”

Friday, 30th November 2007

Issue 20
The Year 9 and 10 Girls’ Softball, Open Girls’ Cricket, Year 7 and 8 Girls’ Basketball Year 10 and 11 Touch Football teams were successful in winning their competitions. These winning teams went on to play the winners of the Southern Division MISA Champions last Tuesday. I congratulate all MISA representatives for the manner in which they represented the College. I also acknowledge the coaches and parents for the support that each offered the students throughout the season.

I remind all parents and students that the College Presentation Evening will be conducted on Monday 10 December at the All Saints Performing Arts Centre Bigge Street, Liverpool. I invite all parents and students to attend this celebration as it is an opportunity to reflect on the year and celebrate the successes of 2007.

Over the last week Year 10 students have been involved in an alternate program where they have been preparing for Year 11, listening to guest speakers and receiving career advice. The activities will give students direction as they move beyond compulsory schooling. This evening Year 10 students, teachers and parents, will join together to celebrate the End of Year 10 Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Mount Pritchard. This occasion will allow our community to celebrate the contribution of Year 10 to the life of the College. The students and parents will join together again on Monday to continue the celebration at the Year 10 Dinner Dance. I wish students in Year 10 all the best, as they complete their compulsory education. I also acknowledge a number of students who will leave the College to pursue employment or study elsewhere. I wish them well in their future endeavours.

God Bless,

Mr John Lo Cascio
Principal

From the Assistant Principal

Orientation Day 2008
An Orientation Day for Year 7, 2008 will be held on Friday 7 December at 9 am with dismissal at 2.30 pm. Students should wear their present school uniform and bring a pen and a notepad to the orientation.

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

2008 Endeavour Book Lists
All students should have received by now an Endeavour Book List. They are due back to the College office by Friday 7th December 2007

Second-hand Text Book Sale
The sale of second-hand text books will take place on Thursday 6th December 2007 at lunchtime. Students are asked to bring any books they wish to sell on the day to school and store them in their lockers. At lunchtime they will be asked to bring their books to the quadrangle.

Students who wish to buy books will need to have cash money and deal directly with those students who are selling books. We hope to have parent volunteers supervising but ask parents to stress to their children the need to keep any money to be used to buy books or from the sale of books, secure at all times.

Parents are reminded that the correct books to be used for 2008 are listed on the Endeavour book lists and that it is the purchaser’s responsibility to check the list before they purchase. It is important to check which edition of the text book which is required.

We remind parents that all students require their textbooks for the beginning of the school year. If they fail to meet the 7th December deadline they should organise the purchase of their own books through Endeavour.

Parents and students are reminded that this is a second-hand book sale and therefore all sales and purchase negotiations need to be fair and reasonable.

If parents are willing to assist on the Textbook Sale day, they are asked to telephone the office and leave their details.

Mr R Grech
Acting Assistant Principal

An invitation is extended to all parents and students to attend GSCC’s COLLEGE PRESENTATION EVENING Monday 10th December 2007 To be held at All Saints Catholic College Performing Arts Centre Liverpool Please contact the College office to organise tickets.

A special thank you to The Madani Family who have generously donated 3 traffic control stands to replace the 3 otto bins currently in use at the College entrance roundabout.
Parenting Corner

Dear Parents,

The season of Christmas is just around the corner and it can be a wonderful opportunity to express gratitude, love and appreciation to our family and friends and certainly those less fortunate. However, as we all know it has become so commercialised and for weeks we are bombarded with catalogues and brochures about what we need to buy. This also means combating children’s PESTER POWER! Invariably it is parents who are the butt of this pressure as children turn to them to fund their consumer-driven lifestyles. ‘Mum, can you buy me a ....’ seems to be the new modern mantra heard in kitchens around the country as weary parents put their hands in their pockets to purchase items for their children before they provide for themselves.

Michael Grose, whom I often quote in this column, offers the following ideas that may help combat your child’s PESTER POWER.

• Avoid feeling guilty for saying no to a child’s request for material goods. Bear in mind that delaying gratification is not only virtuous but is actually good for children in the long run.

• Help children differentiate between a want and a need. Children want many things but in actual fact need far less than they think to get by.

• Introduce pocket-money from an early age and encourage them to save for the things they want. Many of the children who come to chat with me tell me that is how they have acquired some of their gadgets.

• Encourage a sense of generosity to match children’s growing consumerism. When new items are bought then maybe old items can be given to a friend or someone else who can use them.

The consumer culture is both all embracing and persuasive. There is little that can’t be bought these days. Gifts are bought rather than homemade. Clothing is rarely mended. Even simple games such as noughts and crosses have commercial versions that can be bought in a store. So we all have a big job ahead of us to change a culture but let’s keep on trying at least !!

May prayer support you in all your efforts to be the BEST PARENTS you can be.

Sr Marj Carroll

Francis Xavier Parish Spring Fair

On Saturday the 10th November, the Parish of St. Francis Xavier Lurnea held their annual Spring Fair at Liverpool Catholic Club. The day was the opportunity to bring together the community which includes Parishioners, students and families from St Catherine of Sienna Prestons and Francis Xavier Primary Schools which a lot of our students used to attend. There were a number of students from our College who participated in this event, and without their efforts and hard work the day would not have been as successful as it was. Many of these students arrived from early in the morning, assisted the set up and then worked late into the afternoon. Their enthusiasm in “Action Alley” and finding support for the “Chocolate Wheel” helped to see consistent crowds drawn in throughout the day. Their willingness to volunteer their own time, their positive attitude towards assisting in the community and their tireless efforts demonstrate their sense of community spirit the students of the College have here at Good Samaritan. Their representation of the College is one they should be proud of.

These students included:-

Tiana Romeo   Anthony Alvaro
Maryann Wright  Peter Hunt
Nathaniel Barbuto  Justin Ciampa
Justin Tomas  Aaron Mangala
Monique Gerace  Debbie Gallulo
Dario Rossi   Philip Do
Anthony Endravian

Mrs M Melham

Time to Finalise School Fees

As we rapidly approach the end of the school year, it is important for those families who have not yet finalised their school fees to do so.

Unless parents have a formal agreement with the College to pay these fees off, it is important that all fees be finalised by the end of November.

If you are unable to do so, it is essential that parents contact me on telephone 9825 9955 to discuss the matter and make alternate arrangements

Mr J Archer, Business Manager
December 1st marks World Aids Day. We have taken this opportunity to illustrate how Caritas Australia tackles the problem of HIV around the world.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic is complex, heart breaking and often the enormity of it is overwhelming. We are now twenty five years into the pandemic and with 40 million people world-wide living with HIV/AIDS there is no time for complacency nor for any of us to stop thinking and planning about how we can end the spread of the disease.

With some 11,000 new infections each day in 2006, the greatest burden of the HIV pandemic is felt in developing countries. Sub-Saharan Africa is home to 64 percent of all people living with HIV, despite the fact that only one-tenth of the world’s population lives there.

Caritas Australia supports HIV/AIDS programs in many countries including Papua New Guinea, El Salvador, South Africa and Cambodia. These programs support men, women and children living with HIV/AIDS, their families and communities.

Our focus on talking HIV is three fold, educating and empowering the public about HIV; supporting people with and those affected by HIV/Aids and working at an international level to advocate for improving HIV/AIDS.

In response to this cause, the Social Justice Group organised a concert “Aid for Aids in Africa” on Friday 23rd November.

Cork Swords and Shield (Philip, Vince, Michael, Matthew and featuring Anthony)
Duo (Dominic and Denise)
Rock Band (Andrew, Wesley, Justin, Ben)
Ms Welsh (Piano and singing)
Mr Costin (including Kevin singing)
Dancers (Ashleigh and Natasha)
MC’s (Kasey and Stephanie)
Poster Design (Mariecar)
Treasure (Angel)
Technical Assistance (Mr Reyes)
Social Justice Team (Assisting behind the scenes)

Thank you to all who supported this worthy cause. Funds raised will go to Caritas to support Aids programmes in Africa.

Mrs M Sayadi, Year 7 Co-ordinator
World Youth Presentation

As part of their Graduation Week, students in Year 10 were given a presentation on the exciting prospects of becoming involved in World Youth Day 08! The presentation included an overview of WYD08 events and the registration process for becoming a pilgrim. The students were actively involved in asking questions about the kind of things they could expect next year and the people they are likely to meet. Miss Welsh spoke of her excitement about performing in some of the WYD events next year and encouraged the students to embrace opportunities to also become involved through the school and their parish.

For more information about WYD08 or to find out about how to register online as a pilgrim, visit the WYD website: [www.wyd2008.org](http://www.wyd2008.org) or contact Miss Elizabeth Welsh for further information.

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If you have any free time the Canteen would welcome your help...
This year we extended our Connecting Pathways program to invite Year 5 students and teachers from Good Shepherd Primary to complete a morning of classes at high school. The aim of this program is to facilitate better transition for the students at this school and our main feeder school, Good Shepherd Primary School. Also this program seeks to assist teachers from both schools in developing a collegial approach and to facilitate the organisation of curriculum within a K to 10 context.

Last Friday, 23rd November, saw 62 excited and curious Year 5 students descend on our campus during Periods 1 to 3. Students undertook lessons in Drama, Maths, Technology and PDHPE, making use of our facilities and working with specialist teachers in each of these teaching areas. Many thanks to Mr O’Sullivan, Mrs Corner, Mrs Holland and Mr Fitzpatrick for their efforts, energy and expertise. Our visitors were ushered around the college by students in Year 9 who displayed all of the qualities of great leaders. Many thanks to our ushers Kayla Arndell, Elizabeth Si, Kassandra Gore, Louise Doculara, Mariano Salvati, Steven Catanea, Paul Tacca, Damien Ferreri and Joseph Gerace.

Miss Cathy Molloy
Teaching and Learning Co-ordinator
(Acting 2007)