



# GOOD SAMARITAN CATHOLIC COLLEGE HINCHINBROOK NEWSLETTER COLLEGE THEME 2007: "PREPARE THE WAY"

**Issue 3**

**Friday, 2 March 2007**

Dear Parents and Friends of the College,

This week the first meeting of the 2007 College Parent Consultative Committee was conducted. The aim of the committee is to keep a representative group of parents informed of college directions to gain their perspective on these directions. Parents of children from each year group are represented on the committee so that the interests of all students and parents are considered in discussions.

The Agenda for the meeting included: "The Constitution of the Consultative Committee", "The College Annual Development Plan", "Directions for Parent Information Evenings", "Parent Involvement in 2007" and "The Effectiveness of the College Newsletter and Communication". The insights gained from the meeting will be used in future planning.

As part of the discussion of the Annual Plan parents were informed that, after consideration, the components being addressed in 2007 would be reduced from nine to seven. The components related to "Integration of ICT" and "Professional Development of Staff" are being addressed as part of other components in 2007, and will be addressed with a greater intensity at a later stage in the five year cycle. The Annual Plan can be accessed via the college website and the college office.

This Wednesday, March 7, is a pupil free day - on this day the staff of the college will be involved in a staff development day which will focus on teaching and learning. The aim of the day is to in-service teachers so that they can gain insights which they

will use to enable students to match their achievement to their potential. A more detailed description of the day will be given in the newsletter following the staff development day.

On Ash Wednesday students in each house group joined together to mark the beginning of Lent. The liturgies which were celebrated by each house provided an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of Lent and the practical ways that individuals can make a difference to their lives and the lives of others during the Lenten Season. One means to make a difference is via the Caritas Lenten appeal.

Caritas Australia has adopted the theme "Fair play today" which coincides with Pope Paul VI's encyclical "Populorum Progressio" - "On the development of peoples". The message to each person is that each has a role to play in empowering people to help break free from poverty and be architects of their own progress. This can only happen if those of us, who are in a position to offer assistance are prepared to act justly and "Play fairly". Students at the college have been issued with the challenge to help others through their contribution to Caritas during Lent. It is also hoped that the insights gained during Lent will lead to an increased commitment to help others well beyond the Lenten Season.

God Bless

**Mr John Lo Cascio, Principal**

## From the Assistant Principal

### Student Management Guidelines

The college has developed guidelines and procedures for dealing with student management at the school. The guidelines are available for viewing on the college website under the heading of General Information/Policies. Included with this edition of the newsletter are the college Guidelines for Suspension.

### Mobile Phones

Parents and students are reminded that mobile phones are not to be used at the college during school hours. Students found using a mobile phone during school hours will have it confiscated and will require a parent/guardian to collect it from the college office. Students who are ill or need to contact parents are required to report to the office and the ancillary staff will make any necessary communication.

### Educational Forum - ICE

The Cabramatta Community Youth Team is conducting an educational forum as a response to the community's growing concerns of the effects of the drug ICE. The forum will include presentations by health professionals as well as representatives from the NSW Police Force. Parents and students are invited to attend the forum to be held on Wednesday 7th March at All Saints Parish Hall, Liverpool. Complete details can be found in the information section in the back of this edition of the newsletter.

**Mr R Grech, Acting Assistant Principal**

## Parenting Column

We've probably all, at some time, used the expression "I had the time of my life!" So it is worthwhile reflecting on what people/events helped us have the time of our life. However, we adults can appreciate they are fleeting and certainly not common occurrences or they would not be special. We do live our lives in CONTRAST; we have our UPS and DOWNS and that is normal for sure. What we have to learn is how to be RESILIENT to cope with the down times. Michael Grose, who has written many articles on PARENTING writes:

"Resilient kids look back and draw on the skills and understandings they have developed in the past to help them deal with present challenges. For instance, a sixteen year old recently revealed how her time spent on a challenging twelve-day adventure camp helped her overcome the homesickness she experienced on a six month student exchange. She remembered that on the first day of her school camp she did not think she could make it, but she did. She experienced those same doubts early in her exchange but she knew that just as she had coped with her camp she would do so again, but this time in more difficult circumstances. She was drawing on the same resources.

He suggests FIVE VITAMINS for helping children overcome difficulties

- Frame the difficulty as a challenge rather than a problem. Even use the term challenge when speaking about the issue. "Going to school camp can be a challenge but I think you have what it takes to get through it."
- Help children develop the skills and mechanisms to cope with their difficulties. Talk them through challenging situations and give them ideas to help them cope.
- Show confidence in children's abilities to overcome difficulties that they meet. Children generally meet their parents' expectations whether they are positive or negative.
- Give children the opportunity to deal with the problem in their own way. Don't keep checking up on them!

Praise them for their success (or partial success) in getting through the difficult circumstances. God bless you in all your efforts.

**Sr Marj Carroll**

## CARITAS "Raising Money for Fingerlings"

Our Year 11 Design and Technology class were set a challenge to make a fish which will become the visible sign for our college to raise money for Caritas Australia. "Colin" the fish reminds us of the saying that "if you give a person a fish they will eat for the day, but if you teach a person to fish they will eat for a life-time". Our goal, as a college this Lent, is to raise money so that ponds in Bangladesh can be developed to breed "fingerlings" (baby fish) in order to supply many villages with fish to eat.

Each fingerling that will hang inside "Colin the fish" will represent \$1,000 dollars and it is our aim to hang 10 fingerlings inside "Colin" representing \$10,000 dollars. While this sounds like a huge task, we remind the college community that all we need is \$2 dollars a week from each student in the college over the next 5 weeks and we will exceed this figure. That is only 50 cents a day!

- How much do you spend each day on food from the canteen?
- How much do you place into the drink machines a week?
- Remember a small donation each week will go a long way.

Thank you to Mr Dinkha and Ms Foldes for their contribution to the design and also to the other members of our class Debbie Gallulo, Rosemarie Romeo, Brandan Santos, Dale Trenear, Paul Tedone, and Alec Cutler, who like us, worked hard to get this initiative up and running.

Please keep donating to raise money for "fingerlings" the source of life for many people in Bangladesh.

**Reiko Aguilar and Melissa Campisi  
(Yr 11 Design and Technology Class)**

## Year 12 Industrial Technology Graphics and Engineering Studies excursion

On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February, two classes of Year 12 students visited Pilkington Glass at Ingleburn and Reverse Garbage at Marrickville.

The visit to Pilkington Glass enhanced the student's knowledge about industrial businesses. They studied the company's business management and the engineering processes used to create plate glass for Australian and international markets.

The students arrived at Pilkington and started the day by signing in and receiving their visitor passes. They were then handed a safety helmet, reflective vest and safety glasses. All the students felt they were part of an industrial site. The students were taken back by how much personal safety equipment they needed to carry all day as part of working at Pilkington.

Plant Manager Geoff King and Plant Engineer Nicky Bilson gave the students a thorough tour of the plant and showed them how plate glass is manufactured. From the delivery of the sand, limestone, soda ash, dolomite etc, to the melting of the sand to form continuous lengths of glass. The students observed the glass being cut into manageable lengths and the operations of a robot moving plates of glass.

The tour lasted close to 2 hours and at the end we had a very tired group of students. Some comments from the students:

"How much money do they earn"

"When do they have lunch",

"Do we have to wear all this safety equipment"

"It gets very hot next the furnace"

"Is this glass sharp?",

"Can I sit down somewhere" and "Can we stop at McDonalds for lunch"

The group then travelled to Marrickville to visit the Reverse Garbage outlet. Reverse Garbage is a not-for-profit co-operative that sells industrial discards, off-cuts and over-runs to the public for creative and practical uses, reducing the amount of waste going to landfill. Items available at Reverse Garbage include perspex, cloth, ceramic tiles, closed-cell foam, foam sheeting, stickers, cardboard, wood, hessian sacks, paper rolls, bubble wrap, toys, and craft supplies.

As part of their major projects for the HSC, the students may wish to create a model. The Reverse Garbage shop is ideal for buying cheap items that can be used for any modeling tasks.

A bonus for the students whilst they were at Reverse Garbage was the filming of a Disney children's program that is shown on Foxtel. Even though our students tried their hardest to get into the film, I don't think anybody was able to get their 15 seconds of fame.

**Mr Peter Fitzpatrick, TAS Teacher**

## GSCC HOMEWORK CLUB

**When:** Wednesdays & Thursdays

**Time:** 3 to 4 pm

**Place:** College Library

**For:** All students from Year 7 to 12

### Rules:

- Students who want to participate need to have a signed note in their diary and come with work to do.
- Students need to sign in when they arrive
- Students will not be permitted to stay if they do not have a specific task to work on.
- If a student wants to leave before 4-00pm they must have a note signed by the parent in the diary, or be personally picked up from the library.

*(The same library rules apply as in school time).*

A variety of staff members volunteer their time to assist students with assessment and homework tasks. Thursdays will be a day dedicated in particular to mathematics help.



## Feeling Anxious? Help is Available

Anxiety affects everyone. It's part of everyday life. But for approximately 8-10% of young people, anxiety problems are a real concern as they begin to interfere with their every day lives and stop them from doing many things they'd like to be doing.

This time of year is particularly difficult for many families, with teen's going back to school. Young people will be facing all kinds of new and challenging situations, and sometimes they don't have the skills to cope very well. But it doesn't have to be that way!

- Are you shy around other people and do you worry about what they think of you?
- Is it hard for you to stop worrying about things?
- Do you get very upset about being away from your parents?
- Are you really scared of particular things such as snakes, needles or heights?

The good news is .....anxiety is treatable!

### *The Brave Program for TEENAGERS*

If you would like to be involved in the BRAVE program please contact (07) 3346 9516 or email [brave4teenagers@psy.uq.edu.au](mailto:brave4teenagers@psy.uq.edu.au) or website [www.psy.uq.edu.au/webexp/kidscoping](http://www.psy.uq.edu.au/webexp/kidscoping)

### **New Directions in Assessment for Years 7 and 8 in English**

This year will witness a change in the assessment philosophy of the English faculty, in terms of Stage 4 - Years 7 and 8. At the core of this change is Portfolio Assessment. This style of assessment is a feature of many primary school classes, but is new to the Good Samaritan English faculty.

As the year progresses, students' books will be marked at various stages in each semester, in order for teachers to monitor the progress of students and to give feedback to those students about their level of achievement. After this process, students will be given time to select pieces of work from their books that could be placed in their portfolios. The work will either be photocopied or students can create a "good copy" at home for inclusion. Their formal assessment work will also be added to the portfolios.

Towards the end of each semester, students will be asked to write a reflection on the work in their portfolio. In this reflection, students can identify areas where they can see an improvement and areas that need further development. That way, students can be aware of their own learning and teachers can assist with specific skill development.

An integral part of the portfolio assessment will be during parent / teacher / student interview times, to which students can bring their portfolio and discuss its contents with parents and their teacher. In that way, learning in Stage 4 English can be a continually co-operative process.

**Mr M O'Sullivan, English Co-ordinator**

### **Year 11 Visual Arts Excursion**

On Friday 23rd February, Miss Nash, Mrs Armen and Mr Grainger, along with the two Year 11 Visual Arts classes, visited the Art Gallery of New South Wales to view the Art Express Exhibition. The exhibition showcased the work of 2006 HSC Visual Arts candidates who performed within the top band for Visual Arts and whose Body of Work was considered to be of the highest standard by the marking teams last year. The day was very exciting as we saw interesting artworks and many talented artists. The sophisticated calibre of the work made us realise the high standard that is required of us. This also made us realise the commitment and dedication we have to contribute to our Body of Work.

**Michelle Harrison & Elisa Gatto**

### **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  
at 6 pm  
Administration Centre,  
1 Hoxton Park Road  
Bookings Essential on  
tele: 9821 8835



### **Velocity Motivational Media Presentation**

Last Tuesday, as part of the Pastoral Care program, all students at the college watched the motivational media presentation called Velocity. Many students at school make choices everyday. The main message of the presentation centered on adolescents doing what they feel to be right and discouraging people from following the crowd. Different choices and scenarios were portrayed and the many challenges and choices were presented. The Velocity presentation provided students with a new perspective on making choices in their lives.

**Nora Yousif, Year 12 Student**

### **For Men Who Are Thinking About the Priesthood**

An Enquiry Day will be held on Sunday 25th March 2007 at the Seminary of the Good Shepherd, 52-58 Abbotsford Road, Homebush starting with a public Mass at 9.30am. The day will include prayer and talks with information about the studies required of men training for the priesthood and will conclude at 6pm after Benediction.

For registration or more information call the Vocation Centre on 9390 5280 or 9390 5287 (Wed to Fri during office hours) or email [vocations@sydney.catholic.org.au](mailto:vocations@sydney.catholic.org.au). RSVP 19th March.

### **Congratulations & Good Luck**

To Alex Carver and Kayla Salopek who will be competing in the NSW cycling team at the Australian Track Cycling Championships this weekend.



## WYD 2008 Corner – 500 days to go!



### Good Samaritan Catholic College “prepares the way” towards WYD 08.

The 2 student committees for WYD are well under way and have already promoted WYD at our recent assembly. Kassandra Gore and Kayla Arndell (Year 9) outlined to students and teachers, what WYD is, why it is important and the benefits it will have for young Catholics in Sydney. Stephanie Visvanandan and Maryann Wright (Year 11) explained to the assembly how students and staff could get involved at a local level, through participating in the student committee groups. Thank you to Kassandra, Kayla, Stephanie and Maryann for their involvement in the assembly.

The junior meetings will be held during the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of lunch each Wednesday and the senior meetings will be held during the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of lunch each Thursday. This gives students the opportunity to eat some lunch and organise themselves for class before coming to the meeting. It will usually be held in C5.

WYD has been heavily advertised in a number of other ways in the college. PC Classes have received WYD prayers, posters and a copy of the theme for this year, which is “*Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another*” (Jn 13:34). A WYD Corner has also been established in the library for students, including a sacred space and an opportunity to browse the latest E-pilgrim newsletters and find out other breaking news about WYD. Further general information about WYD can be obtained from the website <http://www.wyd2008.org>.

**Miss A Darmody, WYD 2008 Co-ordinator**

## CAREERS NEWS....

### GSCC Vocational Education students shine on work placement

Each year our Hospitality and Business Services students attend work placement at businesses in the local community to complete the work place learning components of these courses. When students are particularly impressive in their demonstration of skills, knowledge of their craft and attitude to work, employers acknowledge them by issuing certificates of high recommendation. From the work placements completed in 2006, several students have received these certificates. They are;

*Hospitality* : Jerome Deojee, Sally Gauthier, Razan Ghanem, Sandy James and Angelique Tripodi  
*Business Services*; Mitchell Bryant, Gregory Campbell, Luke Collins, Kristen Pirello, Amanda Vella and Mariella Zinnato. Congratulations to these students who have represented our college proudly in the community.

### Reach For The Sky!

Are you 13-18 yrs? Want to learn about aviation, fieldcraft & adventure training? Develop leadership skills, self reliance & confidence? Make life long friends? The Australian Air Force Cadets is currently recruiting. Squadrons Australia-wide. Apply now!

### Careers in Aviation, Aerospace & Defence

Aerospace Australia will host a Careers Expo in association with the 2007 Australian International Airshow (VIC) on 20-25 March for those who wish to explore training & employment options in Aviation, Aerospace and Defence. <http://www.airshow.net.au/expo2007/careers/index.html>

### What Do Hotel Managers Do?

Find out by experiencing a day in the life of a Hotel Manager at a real 5 star hotel! William Blue International Hotel Management School will offer this 1 day workshop for Yrs 10-12 on 10 April, 4 July & 9 October. Bookings required.

**Billy Blue - 02 9955 1122 Email- [info@billyblue.com.au](mailto:info@billyblue.com.au) Website: <http://www.billyblue.com.au>**

### Notre Dame Medicine Seminar

The University of Notre Dame Sydney will offer a GRADUATE ENTRY 4 year Bachelor of Medicine/ Bachelor of Surgery course from 2008, subject to final accreditation from the AMC. A Course Information Seminar will be held on 25 March.

Enquiries: 02 8204 4404 / Fax: 02 8204 4408 Email: [sydney@nd.edu.au](mailto:sydney@nd.edu.au)

Website: <http://www.nd.edu.au>

### Indigenous Filmmaker's Scholarship

Metro Screen offers a range of full-time, part-time & short courses in all aspects of video, television production & digital media. Indigenous applicants can apply for a scholarship (max \$1000) towards tuition fees. Email: [admino.nat@aafc.org.au](mailto:admino.nat@aafc.org.au) and Website: <http://www.aafc.org.au/hgaafc/>

**Mr S Berry, Careers Adviser**



# DATES TO REMEMBER

- 5th March: Blazer Fitting
- 6th March: ELLA Testing
- 7th March: Staff Development Day-Pupil Free
- 11th-17th March: Catholic Schools Week  
"Learning in Action"
- 26th March: Year 12 Exams Begin
- 26th-28th March: Year 7 Camp
- 29th-30th March: Year 11 SLR Camp

**CENTACARE**  
**Parent Education Programs Term 1**  
 Sutherland Shire Learning Difficulties Support  
 Group PRESENTS  
**ADD / ADHD in children : To medicate or not to medicate?**  
**With guest speaker Dr Patrick Concannon**  
**Developmental Paediatrician**  
 Join in an open and unbiased discussion about the management of ADD/ADHD. Get some new ideas:  
 Monday 12th March 2007 7.30pm-9.30pm  
 Multipurpose Centre for the Disabled  
 123 Flora Street, Sutherland.  
 ALL WELCOME \$2 door donation requested.  
 Telephone 9545 1505 or email ssldsg@idx.com.au

**CENTACARE EDGEWARE FAMILY SERVICES**  
**Let's Talk Parenting**  
**Building Resilient Kids**  
 Monday 5th March 7pm-9pm  
 There are key protective factors which assist children to feel able, confident and competent to bounce back from adversity. This is an opportunity to discuss ways the parent can nurture the building of resilience in their children.

**Let's Talk Parenting**  
**Teaching Children to manage conflict**  
 Monday 2nd April 7pm-9pm  
 Conflict is a "normal" part of any relationship. Difficulties arise when conflict is not managed effectively. Parents can teach their children positive conflict resolution skills so they can be more assertive and confident when handling conflict.  
 Contact details :  
 Centacare Edgware Family Services  
 The Edgware Centre, 209 Edgware Road  
 Enmore. Ph 95196788 Fax 95161503

**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.

**ICE**  
**IS NOT COOL !!**

An educational Forum surrounding the community's growing concerns of the effects of the drug ICE

**WEDNESDAY 7TH MARCH 2007**  
**All Saints Church Hall**  
**Cnr Elizabeth Drive & George St, Liverpool**  
 at  
**6.30pm to 9.30pm**  
 Registration from 6pm  
 All welcome  
 Prior booking of seats will be greatly appreciated

For more information / RSVP  
 Contact Lindsay, Mark or Barbara  
 Cabramatta Community Centre  
 Ph 9727 0477

**All Saints Parish Liverpool** has been holding a debutantes ball for over 100 years. Maybe your mum was a debutante and/or you would like to join them for this occasion. An introductory brochure is available at the school office for your perusal with more particular details regarding dates for this year available soon. Contact details in the brochure.

<b>MONDAY</b> <b>05.3.07</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b> <b>06.3.07</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b> <b>07.3.07</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b> <b>08.3.07</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b> <b>09.3.07</b>
N Tummarello E Hobby J Colley	D Toro A Waga L LaRosa	M Romeo E Carrabs	E Gallulo L Napoletano	S Koutroubas A Mandic
<b>MONDAY</b> <b>12.3.07</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b> <b>13.3.07</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b> <b>14.3.07</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b> <b>15.3.07</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b> <b>16.3.07</b>
N Carver N Stacey	D Beazley T Cox	M Campisi J Roccisano	L Cutler G Bartolo L Bakhos	W Whitehouse M Ragusa R Pope

**We are still in need of helpers who can volunteer to help at the canteen. It could be once a term or once a month. This would be a great help in serving the students faster, so that no one misses out.**