



# GOOD SAMARITAN CATHOLIC COLLEGE HINCHINBROOK NEWSLETTER

**COLLEGE THEME 2007: "PREPARE THE WAY"**

**Issue 4**

**Friday, 16 March 2007**

Dear Parents and Friends of the College,

Over the last two weeks teaching and learning have been highlighted through two major events at the college. These events were the recent Staff Development Day and Catholic Schools Week.

The staff development day was conducted with the theme "Raising the Bar" "Building potential into achievement." The occasion provided teachers with an opportunity to bring the theme to life at the college. Each of the sessions offered information from students, teachers or Mrs Sherrol Gane, the Gifted and Talented Advisor from the Catholic Education Office. In the sessions teachers reflected on present practice and considered other approaches which could be used to enhance teaching, learning and student achievement.

Teachers have always recognised the importance of encouraging students to do their best (reach their potential), however, teachers understanding of potential and achievement was increased and the insights gained will be used to improve student learning and develop more consistent approaches to teaching across the college.

One aspect of teaching and learning that was reinforced last week was the fact that school is not the only place where learning transpires. Learning is possible at all times and parents have a major role to play in student learning. Parents need to reinforce the learning that is done during the school day and to provide further opportunities for students to learn. This may be done through help and support, high expectations and the provision of an environment conducive to learning at home. I encourage parents to take up the challenge to become more involved in their child's learning in order to help them reach their potential.

The second major event which highlighted teaching and learning was Catholic Schools Week. The 2007 theme of Catholic Schools Week was "Learning in Action". Over the past

week we have been able to highlight the many learning experiences that take place at the college whether it be through competitions, learning support or the focus presented at Thursday's assembly. Our college is very focused on learning which occurs in many ways in classes and in extracurricular activities each day. A number of the activities which took place this week have been included in this newsletter.

This year elections will be conducted for both State and Federal governments. Each party, seeking to be elected, has a policy on education which will have a major impact on the future education of all young people in the nation. I ask all parents to be familiar with the policies of the major parties in order to make informed decisions. Over the coming weeks college newsletters will contain information updating parents of facts and funding related to education.

At the time our last newsletter went to print the results of the swimming carnival were not finalised. I am now able to congratulate the students and staff of Merici on their victory in the swimming carnival. I also thank Miss Sosimenko, the staff and parents involved for the organisation of a most enjoyable and successful day.

At our recent Parent Consultative Committee meeting parents spoke of the possibility of receiving the newsletter via email. This suggestion has been investigated and is certainly possible. Any parents who wish to receive the newsletter via email should follow the instructions included later in this newsletter.

As mentioned in the last newsletter Lent provides a wonderful opportunity to reach out to others. I continue to encourage all families to contribute to Project Compassion which is a very practical way to help people less fortunate than ourselves. Lent also provides an opportunity to reflect on our attitudes within our

own families and community. Lent is a time to fast from attitudes which are relationship destroying or hurtful. It is a time to reach out to the marginalised with a kind word or action which will build the type of community that Jesus requires each of us to promote.

Has this been our reality this Lent?

God Bless,

**Mr John Lo Cascio**  
**Principal**

### **From the Assistant Principal**

Many parents and friends may not be aware that our college newsletter is available on our website under News and Events. To further streamline communication and allow easier access to the newsletter, a subscription form has been established on the website to allow the newsletter to be emailed directly to you. Simply complete the online form by getting your son/daughter to log-in under MyInternet then MyDesktop and the newsletter will be emailed to you each fortnight.

#### **Silver Awards**

At the last assembly I had the privilege of presenting a number of students with Silver Awards. These students should be very proud of their achievements.

Congratulations to...

Michelle Mijatovic	Diana Macri
Angela Castillo	Lidia Mudie
Lisa Petro	Karla Alzamora
Christopher Vella	

A special mention must be made of Robert Borg who received 2 Silver Awards.

#### **Reminder**

The College will be conducting an Information Evening for parents and students enrolling Year 7 2008 on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May. The College will be open from 5 pm with the information session beginning at 7pm.

**Mr R Grech, Acting Assistant Principal**

### **Parenting Column**

*"Remember the days of the old school yard" (an old song by Cat Stevens!)*

I was reminded of this song when on Friday evening I attended a function to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of St Ursula's College Kingsgrove where I taught for 17 years. It was certainly a challenge to remember the faces and names of those who came up to me to say hello. Many of these girls have remained good friends into their womanhood of 50+ years and so this week I was prompted to talk about FRIENDSHIPS – so important for adolescents and difficult for parents wanting to ensure their children are in the right company.

Some experts would say the ability to get along with others and to work as a team member may be more important in determining SUCCESS than intelligence, school marks or level of schooling. Agree or not, FORMING FRIENDSHIPS for adolescents has its hurdles. Talking this over with a parent, she related how one of her sons was friendly with another boy whose general conduct left a lot to be desired. She spoke with her son about this and he admitted that his friend didn't behave well. His mother suggested her son try and help his friend improve and he did! The mother of his friend was so grateful for her son's help.

So rather than turn your adolescent away from their friend (which never works) you may like to try this other strategy. Many see the warning signs themselves and wisely change their friends and need to be congratulated for doing so.

In lower secondary school there is always a lot of MIXING AND MATCHING as it were before they find their real friends many of whom remain so for life. So may we all treasure OUR FRIENDS. THEY SURELY ARE GOLD.

God bless,

**Sr Marj Carroll**

### **Year 7 & Year 12 CAS Classes Working Together....**

In Catholic Studies the Year 7's have been learning about the Good Samaritan Parable, in particular focusing on its moral and ethical teaching. Students had to write their own version of the parable highlighting the meaning. Last week, Mr Costin's Year 7 CAS class joined with Mr Griffith's Year 12 CAS class, where each of the Year 7's were partnered with a Year 12 student and they read their parable to the Year 12's, who helped the Year 7's edit their parable. They also suggested possible changes to their great work. This gave both groups the opportunity to get to know each other and become friends and it also helped the Year 7 students to achieve the best possible result they could. On behalf of both the Year 7's and Year 12's we would like to thank Mr Costin and Mr Griffiths for this opportunity.

**Theresa Papandrea, Year 12**

# Learning in Action Activities

## Learning Matters at GSCC

On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March the staff were involved in professional development that focused on enhancing teaching and learning at the college. Our day, which was titled 'Raising the Bar: Building the Potential into Achievement', saw lively debate about the various ways one might consider the possibilities of potential and the actuality of achievement in our classrooms and across our college. Teachers participated in discussions, listened to a guest presenter and undertook workshops that focused on these issues in a variety of ways.

As a way to set the context for our day we commenced by viewing a video presentation, which had been prepared earlier in the week, that sought responses from a student panel to the core question for the day "How do we building potential into achievement?" Our panel consisted of students from across Years 7 to 12. The students involved in the panel worked together for one lesson and discussed their views in relation to two questions: Do you feel that you always meet your potential at school? Why/Why not? and secondly "How can we as students and as teachers work together to build our potential into achievement?" The insights provided by the students were fantastic and certainly provided considerable food for thought for our staff in their reflection on teaching and learning in our school context.

As we enjoy our Catholic Schools Week and celebrate its' theme *Learning in Action* across the school it is timely to remind ourselves that real learning happens when we as students, teachers and parents work together to build our potential into achievement.

Thank you to Mr Galvin and Mr Gray for their technical assistance and expertise in filming the panel at work and to the panel: *Corey Dwartte (7), Luke Cyron (7), Claudio Carrasco (8), Cristian Ciampa (8), Jessie Mangan (8), Magella Barbuto (9) Natasha Ishac (9) Natalie Genova (10) Anthony Pellegrini (10) Anthony Thepsombandith (10) Elisa Gatto (11) Jess Labuguen (11) Michael Stikovic (11) Justin Tomas (11) Victoria Mammone (12) Jessica Nesci (12) Diego Oyarzun (12)*

I sincerely thank these students for the involvement and most particularly for their open and honest reflection and discussion of teaching and learning from the students' perspective at this college.

**Miss Cathy Molloy**  
**Acting Teaching and Learning Co-ordinator**

### Government Funding

#### How much funding does your child receive in government grants?

##### GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE PER SCHOOL STUDENT

Student in NSW government school (2005-2006 Financial Year)	<b>\$9,242*</b>
Student in NSW Catholic systemic school (2006 Calendar Year)	<b>\$6,674**</b>
Difference	<b>\$2,568</b>

\* Source: NSW Auditor-General's Report to Parliament 2006, Vol 4, p 26

\*\*Source: CEC NSW Audited Accounts for 2006 as reported to DEST

This funding gap is partly offset by fees, building levies and other charges paid by parents, as well as support from parishes.

### Clean Up Australia Schools Clean Up Day

Thank you to the following students who participated in Clean Up Schools Day at the college on March 1.

#### Year 7

Ronnie Dalger, Shaun Newman, Chris Castiglione, Joseph Ragusa, Bryce Wilson, Chris El-Hayek, Adrian D'onofrio, Luke Camilleri, Adrian Assaf, Kobey Martin, Kirstyn Fonti, Brooke Martin, Maroun Sarkis

#### Year 8

Isabella Pezzuto, Laura Giansante, Julian Saada, Aldric Angeles, Felipe Oyarzun, Patrick Goorkiz, Kevin Endravian, Brooke Bellingham, Matthew Vartuli, Nick Vella, Dylan Wulf, Chris Roberts, Jamie Rizzeri, Sam Criniti, Guiseppe Camera, Shannon O'Brien, Jessica Nash, Issy Hanlon, Lauren Smith, Lauren Gajdos, Michelle Mijatovic, Christina Mori, Roberta Rodriguez, Joshua Bugeja, Emily Swallow, Joshua Versi, John Zammit, Stefan Katra

#### Year 9

Matthew Bizzarri, Freida Mantoufeh, Carmina Dimarucut, Camille Dimarucut, Becky Jones, Jessica Ciccone, Bela Da Luz,

#### Year 10

Gavin Role

#### Year 11

Justin Tomas, Peter Hunt, Paul Tedone, Eugene Campisi, Anthony Endravian, Brian Herrera, Alex De Falco, Alex Carver, Elisa Gatto, Elyce Collucio, Michelle Harrison, Antoinella Casuscelli, Sarah Bowman

#### Year 12

Amy-Lee Wulf, Carmel Divola, Georgina Agostino

### Mock Trial Update

The GSCC Mock Trial team's next case will be against Freeman Catholic College in the coming weeks. The case is a criminal case and as the prosecution, we will need to prove beyond reasonable doubt that the defendant has committed assault. Good luck to the team as they spend the next two weeks preparing for the case.

### Public Speaking Competition

Congratulations to the students chosen to represent the college in public speaking last Friday night. The students were impressive ambassadors for the college and their performances were outstanding. Well done and congratulations to:

Year 7: Ronnie Dalger & Justin Jarrett

Year 8: Alyssa Cook & Natalie Perre

Year 9: Anthony El-Zakhem & Natasha Ishac

Year 10: Elizabeth Camilleri

Special mention must be made of Justin, Alyssa and Natasha who will progress to the second round at St Patrick's College Campbelltown tonight. I thank Ms Wright, Mrs Celea, Mrs Bidner and the parents in attendance for their support of the public speakers.

### Information Technology

#### Year 9 IST Students explore the world of HTML! (*Learning In Action*)

Year 9 IST students have been busy learning the art of coding in HTML. This language is essentially the building block of most (if not, all) of the websites that we access today. The students generated their very own web page sample in HTML which they then viewed in Internet Explorer. After this, they were given the task of developing their own interactive story book.

#### Photocopying in the Library

A new print and photocopying system is currently being implemented into the College network. Students will soon be given a new student ID card that will be used to access the photocopier and printers on the system. Until the cards are issued, students who want to photocopy should see library staff to access the photocopier. Photocopying is currently charged at 10c per black and white copy and \$1.00 per colour copy.

#### Mr Reyes, IT Co-ordinator

### Congratulations to Rugby League

Congratulations to Tom Kennedy, Anthony Montague and Gregory Campbell who have been selected to represent Southern Sydney Combined Catholic Colleges, in Rugby League, at the CCC trials later this term.

## GSCC Swimming Carnival—2nd March 2007

Once again, the Good Samaritan Catholic College Annual Swimming Carnival was run under blue skies and warm weather. There were many good performances, both in and out of the pool throughout the day. In the pool, there were 33 college swimming records broken. Congratulations to the following students for breaking college records:

### Male

Isaac Finau (12 Years 100m Freestyle, 50m Freestyle, 50m Breastroke, 50m Backstroke)  
Jacob Zammit (14 Years 100m Freestyle, 50m Freestyle, 50m Breastroke, 50m Backstroke, 50m Butterfly)  
Gabriel Pisanu (15 Years 50m Freestyle)  
Jacob Zanetic (17 Years 50m Freestyle, 50m Breastroke, 50m Backstroke, 50m Butterfly)  
Jared Ingle (18 Years 100m Freestyle, 50m Backstroke)  
Paul Messina (18 Years 50m Freestyle, 50m Butterfly)  
Andrew Papallo (18 Years 50m Breastroke)

### Female

Monique Brown (12 Years 100m Freestyle)  
Brittany Kirby (12 Years 50m Freestyle)  
Agnieszka Komenda (13 Years 50m Breastroke, 50m Butterfly)  
Renee Cox (14 Years 100m Freestyle, 50m Freestyle, 50m Backstroke, 50m Butterfly)  
Vivian Phantharangsi (16 Years 100m Freestyle, 50m Freestyle, 50m Breastroke, 50m Backstroke, 50m Butterfly)  
Jaimie Selvage (18 Years 50m Breastroke)

Below are the Individual Age Champions for 2007:

### Age Boys

12 Isaac Finau(Polding)  
13 Jake Ingle (Merici)  
14 Jacob Zammit (La Salle)  
15 Anthony El-Zakhem (Polding)  
16 Anthony Fedele (La Salle)  
17+ Jacob Zanetic (De Paul)

### Girls

Monique Brown (Merici)  
Agnieszka Komenda (Merici)  
Renee Cox (Merici)  
Lana Ferrerira (De Paul)  
Vivian Phantharangsi (Merici)  
Jaimie Selvage (Chisholm)

It was great to see so many students participating in the different events and getting involved in the spirit of the day. This is easily reflected in the House Participation Pointscore, which contributed to the overall pointscore at the end of the day. Below is the participation pointscore:

Merici	267	La Salle	266	Depaul	263
Chisholm	200	Polding	198	Mackillop	171

Throughout the day there was a close battle for champion house between La Salle and Merici, with the lead in the pointscore changing several times. At the end of the day, Merici prevailed and below is the house points tally for the 2007 Swimming Carnival:

Merici	592	La Salle	587	DePaul	426
Polding	363	Chisholm	359	Mackillop	252

I congratulate the Champion Swimming House for 2007 and all those students who participated in the Southern Sydney Swimming Championships, which were held on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> March.

**Miss D Sosimenko, Sports Co-ordinator**

## Year 12 Ancient History Excursion

On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February Year 12 Ancient History Class at 5:30am to embark on their journey to our nation's capital. There were many tired faces emerging from cars but at the same time a sense of excitement and adventure amongst the group. Mr Costin arrived with the hired mini-bus and Miss Nolan took a quick roll and before we knew it we were on our way to the ACT.

Year 12 Ancient History students have developed a passion and fascination with New Kingdom Egypt since beginning to study it in early 2006. Each member of the class has become a highly educated historian of Egyptology. Last year we heard the world famous museum The Louvre, located in Paris, was giving the National Gallery a once in a lifetime opportunity to exhibit a collection of antiquities. On show for the first time in Australia, the collection of more than 200 objects reveals the mysteries of Egyptian art and culture in all its beauty. This new exhibition is the first the Louvre has sent to Australia in over two decades and features works drawn from the permanent display of Egyptian antiquities at the Musée du Louvre, and others that have never before been on public display.

After stopping at Sutton Forest McDonalds we finally arrived in Canberra and found ourselves standing out the front of the National Gallery. We were all very excited and couldn't wait to see face-to-face what we had been studying so closely in class.



Students were given a guided tour through the museum and surprised themselves by knowing more about the artefacts than the actual guides! I was very impressed with their knowledge and the keen interest they showed. Students also had the opportunity to go through the collection and focus on artefacts which interested them.

We all agreed that this experience was a once in a lifetime opportunity and we valued it greatly. It was amazing to finally see objects which we had only seen on DVD or in our textbooks.

Year 12 Ancient History would also like to thank Mr. Costin for driving the bus. It was a very big ask and we appreciate him giving up his time.

**Miss R Nolan**  
**Year 12 Ancient History Teacher**

## Joel McTaggart Receives his CCC Blues Award

### "Pages From Her Diary" By: Don Lizarda (Year 12)

I started writing this piece on the 'Finale Notepad' Composition software at school and later continued working on it at home. This composition will make up 15% of my final external assessment grade for the HSC from the topic of Popular Music. This composition started off as a mini in-class task during a music lesson one afternoon. The key to the task was to compose a 2-4 bar riff but has become a 23 page composition, which I will now be submitting as one of my HSC electives.

The instruments I used were the ones found in typical rock bands – 2 electric guitars, an electric bass guitar and the drums mainly because I was already familiar with these instruments already having used them in previous compositions and also to give my composition a more ROCK feel. My composition consists of many musical techniques such as syncopation, riffs, ostinatos, harmonising, octaves, short and long note values, monophonic and polyphonic textures, cross rhythms and polyrhythms.

I enjoyed composing this piece and hope you enjoy listening to it. Students can find my composition in the student Work Folder in the School's Database under the Folder Year 12 Music.

### A Composition Excerpt



## WYD 2008 Corner – 485 days to go!

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

### Activ8 – Module 2 is launched

The second module of the World Youth Day Curriculum, Activ8, was launched in the Religious Education KLA a few weeks ago. The World Youth Day Curriculum is a program designed to prepare students for World Youth Day, and is designed to supplement the current Religious Education Curriculum guidelines.

A significant part of preparation towards World Youth Day is reflecting on and analysing the Scriptures, to gain a greater appreciation and understanding of God's revelation to us. Through this greater understanding, it is hoped that students can develop a love for the Word, which also reveals God's love for each of us. Over the next few months, Catholic Studies teachers will be exploring different aspects of Scripture with their students as they relate to the topics being studied. These passages will be examined in the context of this year's WYD Scripture theme which is “Just as I have loved you, so should you love one another” (John 13:34).

### **Fr Stan Fortuna – National RAP MUSIC concert**

Fr Stan is a Franciscan Friar from the USA, who promotes the Christian message through his rap music, and is a strong advocate of WYD08. Fr. Stan will be performing in a RAP CONCERT in Sydney.

Details are as follows:

Where: St. Mary's Cathedral Forecourt, College Street, Sydney  
When: (Palm Sunday – April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007)  
Time: Starts 2pm - Youth Mass at 6 pm  
Cost FREE!

This concert will give participants an idea of what the festivities will be like during the week of WYD in 2008. All are encouraged to attend .

### **Years 11 and 12 students and Young Adults - Leadership Training Course**

The WYD Sydney Archdiocese Committee is offering a LEADERSHIP TRAINING program in preparation for WYD08 and Year 11 and 12 students are invited to participate. It is hoped the course will enrich their own faith and build skills in leadership in the Church, particularly in relation to leading aspects of WYD in 2008. Refer to the WYD website for more details.

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

## Social Justice Senior Leadership Day Services

On Tuesday the 27<sup>th</sup> February the Just Leadership Day Conference took place at Santa Sabina College in Strathfield. A select number of senior students from the Social Justice Group had the privilege of attending.

Led by guest speaker, Dr Anwara Begum Shelly (PhD), a strong willed woman from the Islamic Community leading a Christian initiative, demonstrated the extent to which poverty has taken control over more than 35 countries. She also emphasised the need for communal effort to overcome it regardless of race, gender or religion. Through a thought provoking speech she focused on the development plans for the citizens of Bangladesh for whom our school community is seeking funds this Lenten period.

A development plan encouraging these disadvantaged people in our world to become “Architects of their own progress”. To seize the technical advice and training on how to establish fish ponds and vegetable farms using more efficient methods to obtain higher yields and consequently improve their standard of living. With the underlying theme of “Fair Play Today”, the visual stimulus on the situation of Bangladesh along with open discussion amongst various schools on other inequitable dilemmas in our world, sparked the need to work in unity to reach the proposed Millennium Development Goals by 2015, one primarily being to Make Poverty History!

Group work allowed participants to meet new students and discuss social justice issues with reference to practical ways that schools can not only raise funds, but raise awareness of the harsh injustices flourishing throughout our world.

It is without a doubt that this day was very worthwhile as it allowed us to think about the world beyond our own, acknowledge the negative differences between nations and work together both practically and socially to make a difference.

Thank you to Sr Marj Carroll and Mrs Marcellienus who accompanied the following students who represented Good Samaritan Catholic College:

Adriana Hermis, Joseph Boustany, Andrew Papallo, Amy-Lee Wulf, Amy Iheakanwa, Bianca Xerri, Jesse Labuguen and Don Lizada.

**By Joseph Boustany & Adriana Hermis (Year 12)**



## DATES TO REMEMBER

- 26th March: Year 12 Exams Begin
- 26th-28th March: Year 7 Camp
- 29th-30th March: Year 11 SLR Camp
- 4th April: Year 11 Textiles & Visual Design  
Excursion
- Parent Teacher Student Interviews at 3 pm
- 5th April: Holy Thursday Liturgy  
End Term 1

### CALCULATOR ENGRAVING

Twelve enterprising Year 8 Leaders are currently managing an innovative project to raise money for Caritas. They have prepared posters and visited every class to encourage students to improve the security of valuable personal equipment, such as calculators, and at the same time support the Caritas Bangladesh Fish Farm Project. For just 50 cents per item, students have had their calculator, ruler, geometry set and even a guitar engraved. Considering the cost of school equipment, 50 cents is good value insurance to maximise the chance of misplaced items being reunited with their owners. Students should bring their items to B3 at recess or lunch any day next week and support Caritas during Lent.

### CEO Transition into the Workplace Job Orientation Day

On Monday 19th February a group of twelve Good Samaritan Catholic College students and six Freeman College students gathered together at our Hinchinbrook campus to learn many skills needed for embarking on work experience in the community. These enthusiastic students qualify for access to the Transition Program provided by the CEO and organised by their Transition Officer, Mrs Margo Smith and her colleagues Fran McBride and Sue Lubens.

The day went quickly, covering skills such as personnel presentation, work ethic, occupational health and safety issues, areas of interest and planning for leaving school or selection of Year 11 and 12 subjects.

These students will have the opportunity to go out on work experience two or three times during the year. The first time is Week 9, Term 1. These opportunities will help the students get a feel for the areas of their interest and so make more informed decisions on a career path. These students will be supervised by Marina Siskovic, the work place supervisor and Philippa Skuja, Special Needs Teacher.

We wish the students all the best and lots of learning while they are out in the workplace.

**Ms P Skuja, Special Needs Teacher**

### Vocation Discernment Weekend 13th (evening) to 15th April 2007

Feel called to the Priesthood?  
Don't be left wondering!

Come to a weekend at the Seminary of the  
Good Shepherd.

To register or to enquire please contact:  
Vocation Centre  
Level 11, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney  
Tele: 9390 5287

[vocations@sydney.catholic.org.au](mailto:vocations@sydney.catholic.org.au)

If you know any young men among your parishioners who you think may have a vocation to the Priesthood, please invite them to attend this *Vocations Discernment Weekend*. While some men may respond to posters and bulletin notices I am sure you agree that nothing compares with a personal invitation.

MONDAY 19.3.07	TUESDAY 20.3.07	WEDNESDAY 21.3.07	THURSDAY 22.3.07	FRIDAY 23.3.07
L Versi L Tomelic	D Ingle T Pontifex T Martin	M Keir J Short	G Gerrish A Demasi R Origlia	M Wright J Vartuli
MONDAY 26.3.07	TUESDAY 27.3.07	WEDNESDAY 28.3.07	THURSDAY 29.3.07	FRIDAY 30.3.07
L Tomelic M Macri A Testa	L Fasogiannis T Zanetic V Sgro	R Criniti L Dwarté C Malla	L Vella C Smith N Michael	D Caruana D Segatto R Romeo

#### Canteen Help Needed...

Over the term the number of parents able to offer support in the canteen has dwindled. The support of parents in this area is essential to provide the service necessary to cater to the needs of our students.

If any parent is able to volunteer to help in the canteen please contact Mrs Golubic or the office. Any support would be most appreciated.