



# GOOD SAMARITAN CATHOLIC COLLEGE HINCHINBROOK NEWSLETTER

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

**Issue 5**

**Friday, 30 March 2007**

Dear Parents and Friends of the College,

Last week I received a telephone call from Mr Pat Farmer the Secretary for the Minister for Education and member for Macarthur. Mr Farmer rang to inform me that we had received a grant which would enable the college to erect shade cloth in the area outside the canteen. The cost of the shade cloth is \$77,000. The Commonwealth Government will contribute \$46,000 our fundraising from 2005 will contribute \$25,000 and the remainder will be drawn from college funds. I sincerely thank the Commonwealth Government for their support which has enabled us to complete this stage of our shade cloth project, and the community for their fundraising efforts which made quite a significant contribution to the total. I also acknowledge Mr Chris Hayes our Local Member for his support in this project.

This year our fundraising efforts will focus on raising funds to erect shade cloth in another area of the college. This, in turn, will provide more protection from the sun for our students.

Over the last few weeks, I have had the opportunity to see a number of students use their talents in extra curricular activities. I congratulate Natasha Ishac, Justin Jarrett and Alyssa Cook on their performances in making the second round of the CSSA Public Speaking Competition. Although they did not reach the final their performances were commendable. I also congratulate Nhi Tran, Vivian Phantrangsi, Brendon Santos and Don Savady on their contribution to the Religious Art Competition, conducted at the Australian Catholic University. The works were of a very high quality and all students were praised for their contribution to the exhibition. It is always gratifying to see students use their talents to achieve such success.

Next week the college will distribute interim reports and conduct Pastoral Teacher/Parent/

Student Interviews based on these reports. I wish to emphasise that these reports and interviews provide a wonderful opportunity for parents and students to assess student progress early in the year. These evenings allow meaningful and timely communication which will ensure that any problems can be rectified early in the year. It is essential that both parents and students avail themselves of this opportunity and make attendance at the interviews a priority.

This week I had the pleasure of visiting the Year 7 Camp at Tea Gardens. Students at the camp certainly appreciated the challenges offered and the opportunity to get to know their teachers and fellow students in a unique environment. Experiences such as camps and retreats are crucial in the development of the whole person and form an important aspect of the extra curricular life of the college. I thank the parents of Year 7 students for supporting the camp. I also thank the teachers Mrs Sayadi, Miss Najdek, Mr Zahra, Mr Bagot, Mr Reyes, Miss Welsh, Mrs Treloar, Miss Benjamin, Mr Lozelle, Miss Morabito, Mr Fitzpatrick, Miss Samardzic, Sr Marj and Mr Brown who spent three days and two nights with the students to allow them to experience this community building event.

As the school holidays approach, so does the increased opportunity for students to spend more time on the internet. This increased time on the net can bring problems when students visit certain sites such as Myspace, Bebo and Youtube. These sites involve students providing personal information and photos which then become available for public viewing. The sites also allow others to comment on individuals which can lead to the "good name" of some individuals being maligned. The sites offer very little opportunity for individuals to redeem themselves or to reply to the information

supplied. These sites can also be the source of gossip which can be damaging or untrue.

It is essential for parents to be aware of their children's involvement in these sites and other sites that students may choose to visit. This will ensure that the negative impact of the sites will be reduced and parents will have greater control over their children's activities. It is also essential that parents know with whom their children are communicating while on the net. One means by which parents may overcome the issues above is by locating a computer in an area where they are able to observe what is being done on the net and to control the sites that students actually visit.

Recently I had discussions with our local Police Schools Liaison Officer who also mentioned her concern with cyber crime and the dangers of the internet. Her concern is that many internet users, especially children, are unaware of who they are actually communicating with when they are on the net. Some children are actually communicating with adults who the police refer to as "predators". This in turn provides even greater incentive for parents to increase their knowledge of their children's activities on the net. I encourage all parents to be vigilant when their children are using the internet.

Last week we welcomed Mrs Dot Rogers and Miss Marissa Wallis to the teaching staff. Mrs Rogers is a member of the learning support team taking the place of Mr Zuman and Miss Wallis will take the place of Mrs Raco who will be on Maternity leave until 2008. I wish Mrs Raco all the best for the remaining time of her pregnancy and the impending birth of her third child.

This week is Holy Week; the week we celebrate the fact that Jesus gave His life so that we may have eternal life. During Lent we have had the opportunity to think about ways that we may live the Christian message in our own lives. I pray that over Easter we are able to build on our Lenten experience and to commit to living a Christian life that is not only a way of life for ourselves but an inspiration to others. This may also involve moving out of our comfort zone and challenging attitudes and actions which are counter to the message of Jesus Christ. I wish everyone a Holy Easter and encourage everyone to take advantage of the Sacraments offered in our local parishes during Holy Week.

God Bless

**Mr John Lo Cascio, Principal**

## **Easter Liturgy**

On Thursday April 5, the college will conduct an Easter Liturgy at 10.45 am. Parents are invited to attend and be part of this special celebration.

## **Outstanding Sporting Achievement**

As was mentioned in the previous newsletter, Alex Carver and Kayla Salopek competed in the Australian Cycling Championships recently. Both students performed at an exceptional level. Alex went on to receive a gold medal in the team sprint, and a bronze medal in the sprints and scratch race.

This week Jacob Zammit from Year 8 will represent the Southern Sydney Team at the CCC competition. Jacob was the only swimmer from the college to be selected in this team.

Congratulations to Jacob, Alex and Kayla on reaching an elite level in their chosen sport.

## **Enrolments 2008**

The enrolment period for 2008 has begun and will conclude at the end of May 2007. Those wishing to enrol students into Year 7 in 2008 should attend the Information Evening at the college on May 2. The evening will begin at 7 pm and will be preceded by an open afternoon beginning at 5 pm. Parents and students will have the opportunity to wander around the college between 5 pm and 7pm in order to view the facilities and ask any questions which they would like answered.

Year 11 enrolment packages will be distributed to Year 10 during Week One of Term 2. Students wishing to enrol in other years should collect enrolment packages from the college office.

## **Teenage Stress Management Evening**

On Monday May 7 2007 the college will conduct an evening for parents to focus on the issue of stress management for teenagers, especially those in the senior years. The evening will be conducted by the college counselor Vini Capano, with help from a number of teachers at the college. It is hoped that an evening of this nature will give parents greater insight into teenage stress and some strategies for dealing with the stress students face. The evening will begin at 7pm at the college.

## From the Assistant Principal

### Silver Awards

At the last assembly I had the privilege of awarding students with their silver awards. These students should be very proud of their achievements.

Congratulations to Rochelle Marte and Leah Brown. Leah received 2 Silver Awards.

### Winter Uniform

A reminder to parents and students that all students are required to be in full school winter uniform from the beginning of Term 2 on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April. This includes blazers for all Senior and Junior students, stockings for the girls and ties for all boys. The College uniform shop is open on Monday to Thursday morning before school for any purchases in relation to the winter uniform. It is understood that some Year 7 blazers will not be available by the beginning of Term 2. Only these students will be permitted to be out of uniform at the beginning of the term.

### College Blazers

There has unfortunately been a delay in the delivery of all the new blazers that have been ordered for 2007. The owners of the blazers that have arrived will be contacted next week to collect and pay for them. The remaining blazers will be due for collection in early Term 2.

### Vaccination Program

The Commonwealth Government will be funding the cervical cancer prevention vaccine for all girls and women aged 12 to 26. The first stage of the program will be to vaccinate girls in Years 10, 11 and 12. The vaccinations are free of charge. The vaccination dates will be 17<sup>th</sup> May, 25<sup>th</sup> June and 24<sup>th</sup> September 2007.

Parent Information Kits will be distributed in the near future.

### Teacher / Parent / Student Interviews

Next Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April the College will be conducting Pastoral Teacher / Parent / Student interviews for students in Years 7-11. An interim report will be issued at the interviews. Students are required to book an interview time with their Pastoral Care teachers. Interviews will be limited to ten minutes duration.

**Mr R Grech, Acting Assistant Principal**

## Parenting Column

Many years ago, the ROLLING STONES had a song, "You can't always get what you want" even back then! Michael Grose, the adolescent psychologist writes that this notion is at odds with current consumerism where anyone can walk into a shop, armed with a CREDIT CARD and buy whatever they want IMMEDIATELY! You don't have to wait until you can afford it.

But there are some things momentarily out of reach or simply worth waiting for. For parents, this means having the will to say NO to kids when their requests are unreasonable.

It is good sometimes to wait for something SPECIAL. It makes you appreciate it. As one student even said to me, they have to realise the DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NEEDS and WANTS and to have a REALITY CHECK as to where this money comes from! It does not grow on trees, as the saying used to be.

Impulse control is one of the keys to effective living. Those kids who can control their IMPULSES and learn to wait are generally better off behaviourally, academically and socially.

There is no doubt that saying NO to kids is hard work as it is in their job descriptions to push PARENTAL BOUNDARIES. It is, however, in their long term best interests to realise that they "can't always get what they want". Perhaps bringing Lent to a close with a few sacrifices will help bring the message home that they are much better off than a lot of children throughout our war-torn world and they don't need the latest model i-POD, mobile phone, or jewellery!

May our Easter reflections on DYING and RISING help us be more in touch with the JESUS message of "What the world needs now is LOVE" beautifully rendered for us at our HARMONY DAY CONCERT by some of our talented teachers.

Enjoy the Easter break with your children – they are very precious. God bless, **Sr Marj Carroll**

## Reconciliation During the Time of Lent

Over the past five weeks, both the students and the staff of the college have had the opportunity to undertake the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Brother Pat and Father Joseph have been regular visitors to the college where they have offered the first and second Rite of Reconciliation.

It has been extremely encouraging to see the students reflect on themselves as people who, at times, sin and that through the sacraments and prayer they can overcome life's challenges and continue to develop their relationship with one another and with their God.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank both Brother Pat and Father Joseph for spending time with our students and offering them not only the sacrament of Reconciliation but a real presence of faith and trust in God.

**Mr K Griffiths, RE Co-ordinator**

## School Fees

All Term One school fees are now overdue. Parents are asked to ensure that all Term One accounts are settled prior to the commencement of Term 2. BPay payments can still be made during the school holiday period. If there is difficulty meeting school fee payments, parents should contact the college to discuss the issue with Mr Lo Cascio or Mr Archer, the college business manager

## Information Technology

### Use of proxy sites on the College network

Students are reminded that the use of proxy sites is strictly prohibited when accessing the internet through the College. All workstations are monitored, and any attempt to access proxy sites will be dealt with severely.

### Special Event Team at GSCC

There have been a number of special events held at the College this term, and many of these events could not have been professionally staged without the help of a number of students. The students were Leonardo Pecorella, Paul Tacca, Nicole Malsem, Madeleine Honyi, Katherine Hobby and Paolo Marcocci. Their ongoing assistance is greatly appreciated, and I thank these students for the tireless effort they always give.

**Mr Reyes**  
IT Co-ordinator

## Year 7 & 8 Coin Trail

Last Friday, Year 7 and 8 Pastoral groups were involved in a coin trail to raise money for Project Compassion. Many contributions were made on the day with the senior leaders from year twelve organising and co-ordinating the event during the morning administration time.

This effort was outstanding with the coin trails raising a total of \$367.90! This money will certainly help those less fortunate and we thank you for your contributions and participation in this event.

## Shrove Tuesday

Tuesday 20th February marked Shrove, also known as Pancake, Tuesday. To honour this Catholic tradition, the Social Justice Group made pancakes with maple syrup for the students and staff of the college to purchase. We raised just under \$300 for Caritas.

On behalf of the Social Justice Group I would like to extend a special thanks to Mrs McInerney for her support and help on the day, and also to all the staff and students who helped to make the day run smoothly.

**Amy-Lee Wulf, Year 12**

## Clancy Religious Art Exhibition at ACU

Year 11 students Don Savady, Brandon Santos, Nhi Tran and Vivian Phantharangsi entered their devotional paintings in the Clancy Prize for Religious Art. Their works were displayed along with works from other Sydney Secondary Catholic Schools. The exhibition will be on show at the Australian Catholic University National Gallery, Albert Street, Strathfield from Friday March 23 until March 31.

**Congratulations to  
Don, Brandon, Nhi and Vivian**



## Year 9 Incursion - Tug Dumbly

On the 21st March, a poetic comedian, Tug Dumbly came to our College to perform for the Year 9 English classes. He involved the audience by exaggerating characters such as politicians, celebrities and Australian Idol contestants.

The audience was kept involved in the performance with rewards of Tim Tams for those who participated. This is where we singled out those who were the better catchers in the year group.

I think we should have more performances like this because it increases our awareness of the power of language.

Thank you to Ms Fegatilli and those teachers involved on the day.

**Jennifer Awad**  
Year 9

## Public Speaking

Students in Years 7-10 recently represented Good Samaritan College in the Catholic Schools Public Speaking Competition. This was held on Friday nights in March. For the competition, students are given a list of topics from which they can choose one to prepare a speech. The students who competed in the competition were: from Year 7 - Ronnie Dalger & Justin Jarrett; from Year 8 Natalie Perre and Alyssa Cook; from Year 9 Anthony El-Zakhem & Natasha Ishac; from Year.10 Elizabeth Camilleri.

Their range of topics included "Heroes", "The One Day of the Year" "Make Mine A Latte" and "A Band-aid will do the job". The students worked hard to practice their speeches and they all spoke with confidence and engagingly in the first round. Three students were then selected to compete in the regional final.

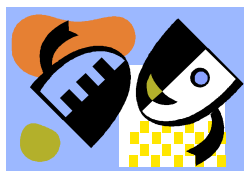
Alyssa, Natasha and Justin practiced hard for another week and were very competitive in the final. Unfortunately, none of them made it through to the metropolitan final but they were gracious in defeat! I would like to congratulate all the speakers on their excellent effort and the commitment they gave to participate in the Catholic Schools Public Speaking competition.

**Ms B Wright**  
**Public Speaking Co-ordinator**

## Year 12 Drama Excursion

On Tuesday 20th March, the Year 12 Drama students and their Drama teacher went on an after hours excursion to see a play that is on their topic list for Tragedy in the HSC Drama course. The play was, "Death of a Salesman" by Arthur Miller and it was performed as a play reading at the New Theatre in Newtown. It is very important in Drama to have an experience of seeing live productions so we all were keen to go to the theatre, even though it was a late night. A play reading means that the actors hold the script in their hand but they still act out the role and move around the stage. The class students were very impressed by the acting and said that they forgot the actors had a script in their hand because they were so involved in the drama. "Death of a Salesman" is a classic piece of theatre which tells the tragedy of an ordinary man. Students in Year 12 Drama study this play along with "Sophocles" an ancient Greek tragedy, "Oedipus Tyrannus." Recently in class they have performed scenes from the play for an assessment task

**Ms B Wright**  
**Drama Teacher**



## Harmony Day

Harmony Day is celebrated across Australia on 21<sup>st</sup> March. The Social Justice Team organised a concert 'Playing for Peace' to commemorate this event. Laminated bookmarks based on Social Justice themes were distributed as a memento to mark this occasion.

The concert included students and teachers who volunteered to perform on this day. A special thank you to our performers. A gold coin donation was collected from the audience. The amount raised was \$239.20 which will be donated to Caritas as part of the 'Project Compassion' contribution, for Lent, from GSCC.

Thank you to Mrs Sayadi, Mr Reyes and the students who helped make this concert a success.

**Mrs K Marcellienus, Social Justice Team**

## Year 7 & 12 CAS

In class last week, Year 12 CAS again spent time helping the Year 7.6 CAS class. The Year 7 students were completing a task based on the Easter Triduum. Breaking this down into its three components, students were asked to research passages in their bible that tell the story of the Easter Triduum and then complete a drawing or cartoon reflecting this story. Each Year 7 student was partnered with a Year 12 student who helped them research and guided the students in the presentation of the story. The Year 7 students found the guidance very useful as they attempted to complete this task.

**Mr Kevin Griffiths, RE Coordinator**

## Year 11 Liturgy

The Year 11 liturgy conducted on Wednesday was a nice way to see the end of Term 1. It provided an opportunity to reflect on the past, the achievements and failures and to think about our future and how we are going to strive for the best results. Two Merici students Nhi and Vivian put together a power point which reflected on the themes of the liturgy and the importance of these themes. In doing this we welcomed God into our gathering and asked for His guidance to help us use our talents to the best of our ability. Another theme of the liturgy was forgiveness. We reflected on how we can love our enemy. It brought up many questions about how we can do this. Forgiving our enemy is a challenging thing for us to do but through the little things that we think don't matter, we can make somebody feel better about themselves. In this we found that life is not always about how we feel but also about how others feel and how we can make them feel. This reflection was broken down by Ms Melham who gave the Year 11 students a better understanding of the effect forgiveness can have on individuals. The Year 11 students found the liturgy to be an inspirational one, giving them confidence in God which should help them through their higher school studies.

**Dominique Tolomeo, Year 11**

## **WYD 2008 Corner – 472 DAYS TO GO!**

During this last week, I asked some of the students in the World Youth Day Student Committees to provide some of their reflections and thoughts about WYD to date. Here is what they stated:

*“WYD will unite, inspire and strengthen all people throughout the world and allow them to develop a strong and fulfilling faith. WYD dares youth to place their trust in God, so that God will guide them on their journey. WYD will inspire others to be challenged to be witnesses to the Holy Spirit”*

**Stephanie, Maryann, Ann-Maree and Veronica, Year 11.**

*“Celebrate your faith the Catholic youth of the world and make it a day to remember”.*

**Kayla and Onella, Year 9**

*“WYD will bring together young Catholics of the future.”*

**Sandra and Magella Year 9**

*“WYD is inspiring to Catholicism and unites young people from around the world”.*

**Phillip, Anthony and Brian Yr 11**

*“WYD will make a difference. It will enable you to ENCOUNTER JESUS. And it will therefore change your life.”*

**Justin and Ben, Year 11**

May we, as a Catholic community, participate in the invitation to encounter Jesus and be true witnesses to the Holy Spirit, in this, our great South Land.

For future information, please log onto the website. [www.wyd2008.org.au](http://www.wyd2008.org.au)

**Miss Darmody**

**WYD 2008 Co-ordinator**



## **Careers News...**

### **Enrol to vote**

Due to changes in the Electoral Act, since June 2006 young people aged 17 to 18 years may not be able to enrol to vote in the week that a federal election is announced. They may miss their opportunity to vote. The Australian Electoral Commission is encouraging all eligible young people to enroll during “Enrol to Vote Week”, May 28<sup>th</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007. Visit [www.enroltovoteweek.com.au](http://www.enroltovoteweek.com.au) to enroll on-line.

### **Allwell Tests**

Year 10 students will begin Allwell and Associates “Exploring Your Careers Options”, a structured careers program during PC classes in term 2. Year 10 is a critical year for many students as they make watershed decisions about their future. In a rapidly changing environment, it is important to take time to reflect on personal strengths and challenges, research and explore opportunities and so reach decisions that are appropriate for the interests, abilities and ambitions of each individual. The Allwell program is used to support this process by testing each student using a number of tests in order to generate a personal portfolio. The portfolio is an aid to students’ self assessment and provides a starting point for further research and evaluation of career options and paths.

All year 10 students will be tested on May 8<sup>th</sup>, with a follow up day on May 16<sup>th</sup> for students who may be absent on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Parents are encouraged to review the personal portfolio with their Year 10 son or daughter. It is meant to assist students and adults to begin a conversation that will lead to confident, informed decisions.

### **Sydney Uni Info Tours**

The University of Sydney offers regular tours of the Camperdown & Darlington Campus to prospective students in years 10-12 & their parents/guardians. The tour encompasses the Camperdown/Darlington campuses of the University.

The tours are guided by fully trained Student Advisers, who offer you the unique opportunity to find out more about the University of Sydney from a current student’s perspective. Next Tours: April 18, May 23, June 29, July 4 & 1. Bookings essential.

Campus Tours: 1300 362 006 / 02 93511 2274 Website: <http://www.usyd.edu.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 Info 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>

### **Featured Jobs-**

**Red Rooster** are looking for casual crew staff for stores throughout Sydney’s northern, southern and western suburbs.

Visit <http://www.redrooster.com.au/recruitment.html> or your local Red Rooster store for more details.

**Flight Centre** are looking for Travel Sales Consultants, CBD, Leichhardt, Marrickville and Surry Hills. Full time work. For a rewarding sales career that inspires people to see the world. For further details visit: <http://careers.flightcentrelimited.com.au/jobDetails.asp?sJob!Ds=211104&stp=FW> to apply on line.

**Mr S Berry, Careers Co-ordinator.**

**Information  
About Education Funding**

**Do school fees cover the cost of your child's education?**

No. Your school fees are very important, but education in 2007 is an extremely expensive undertaking. Together, the State and Federal governments provide about 80% of the funds for Catholic schools in NSW. For Catholic schools, the remaining 20% is made up by fees, building levies and other charges paid by parents, assistance from the parish (for Primary schools) and fundraising activities. Even when school fees are taken into account, there is a significant gap in the resources available to Catholic systemic schools compared to government schools.

**RECONCILIATION ESSAY  
COMPETITION 2007**

The NSW Office of Fair Trading is running an essay competition open to all students in Years 9 to 12. The aim of the competition is to promote Reconciliation in the schools and allow students to give their opinion on Reconciliation in Australia.

The 450-500 word essay around the theme of 'The Future Direction of Reconciliation in Australia' is to be submitted no later than Friday 5 May 2007.

Overall winners will receive an award and book voucher, and will read their winning entry at the "Their Spirit Still Shine's" event to be held at the University of Technology, Sydney on Monday 28 May.

Any one interested, should contact the school office for the nomination form and a copy of the Student Guide.



**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- 4th April: Year 11 Textiles & Visual Design Excursion and Parent Teacher Student Interviews at 8 pm
- 5th April: Holy Thursday Liturgy End Term 1
- 6th April Good Friday
- 23rd April Term 2 commences
- 25th April Anzac Day
- 2nd May Year 7 2008 Information Evening (School Open from 5 pm. Information Session 7 pm)

**Centacare  
Post Separation Group Program**

Centacare are offering two new groups in Term 3, 2007. **Step Parenting** is a six week group for couples where one or both have children from an earlier relationship and **Rollercoasters 2** is a series of 8 one hour workshops conducted for children 12 to 16 years whose parents have separated or divorced. For further information contact: Catherine Maric on 9390 5360 or 0407 494 193.

**CEO, Sydney  
Parent Education Programs**

- Learning Links, Workshops for Parents**
- Developing Verbal Dyspraxia** 26th March at 6 pm-8.30 pm
- Nurturing Children's Social & Emotional Development** 27th March at 6 pm-9 pm
- Reading at Home with My Child: Making it Fun & Beneficial** 4th April at 5.30 pm-7 pm
- Understanding Giftedness; Characteristics of a Gifted Child** 6th April at 6 pm-8.30 pm
- Understanding Learning Difficulties** 26th April at 6 pm-8.30 pm
- Venue: Learning Links 12-14 Pindari Road, Peakhurst. Tele: 9534 1710

- Drama for Kids**
- Primary, Teens and Seniors
- Venue: Sutherland Shire Learning Difficulties Support Group Inc. Tuesdays at 4 pm
- Tele/Fax: 9545 1505
- Someone to Turn To Parent Support Network for parents of children with ASD**
- Refer: [www.aspect.org.au](http://www.aspect.org.au)

**CANTEEN ROSTER**

MONDAY 02.04.07	TUESDAY 03.04.07	WEDNESDAY 04.04.07	THURSDAY 05.04.07	FRIDAY 05.04.07
E Hobby J Colley	D Toro L La Rosa	M Romeo E Carrabs	S Lichaa <b>Help Please.....</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>
MONDAY 23.04.07	TUESDAY 24.04.07	WEDNESDAY 25.04.07	THURSDAY 26.04.07	FRIDAY 27.04.07
E Hobby J Colley	L Fasogiannis T Zanetic V Sgro	<b>Anzac Day</b>	E Gallulo L Napoletano	D Caruana D Segatto R Romeo