Dear Parents and Friends of the College,

Welcome back to 2008. I trust that students have come back to school refreshed and ready to make a commitment to their studies in 2008. The year ahead is very exciting with the challenges in all areas of school life as well as World Youth Day. World Youth Day provides a great opportunity for young people across the nation to be actively involved in a very exciting time in the Church. The College community certainly looks forward to being part of this historic time in the life of the Church and we are committed to involvement later this year.

At the beginning of each year a challenge is offered to our community via a theme which becomes a focus of College life. This year the theme is “Be the Change you desire”. I encourage each person in our community to reflect on the theme and consider how this theme can be put into action. I ask everyone to explore how they can use their God-given talents to bring about positive changes in their lives. I also ask each person to explore how they may be able to bring about positive changes in the lives of others. The challenge is not only bringing change but being that change. It is a challenge for each of us, which I hope each individual is prepared to accept.

As 2007 drew to a close the College received the School Certificate and Higher School Certificate results. The results were pleasing in many areas and are an improvement over previous years. The School Certificate results displayed significant improvement in Science, Australian History and Australian Geography, however, there are still challenges to ensure that all areas continue to improve. The 2007 HSC results also showed an improved performance across all subjects with 15 subjects being above or within 2 marks of the state mean. As in the past the staff will be reviewing their approaches to the School Certificate and Higher School Certificate in order to build on our successes. A summary of the results is included in this newsletter and will also be included in the Annual Report released later this term. I do, however, take this opportunity to congratulate students whose results were quite outstanding. Congratulations to Dino Romeo, Amanda Vella, Kaia Pondelak and Elvira Macri who received UAI ranks of 97.25, 95.05, 92.55 and 90.0 respectively. Amanda Vella also deserves special mention after being placed 6th in the State in Business Services.

The above results are the product of dedication to study and hard work. These students are a wonderful example of what can be done when a person works hard to achieve their goals.

This year we welcome a significant number of new staff to the College. Welcome to Mr Brooks (Assistant Principal), Mrs Jarvis (Curriculum Co-ordinator), Miss Addabbo (Italian/English), Mrs Leonello (Special Needs), Mr Bell (Mathematics), Mr. Bradbury (HSIE), Mr Dounan (HSIE), Mr Teuma (Acting HSIE Co-ordinator), Mr Buchan (TAS), Mrs Doran (Visual Arts), Mr Micev (PDHPE), Mr Sultana (Science), Miss Raso (Visual Arts), Miss Terkuc (English/Religious Education).

Each Year the College produces an Annual Development Plan which outlines the priorities for that year. The Annual
Plan can be accessed via the College website or collected from the College office.

Next Friday the College will conduct the Opening School Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church at Mount Pritchard. The Mass will begin at 11 am. I take this opportunity to extend an invitation to all parents and friends who may wish to join the community for this very special event.

Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of Lent. Lent is a time of preparation to celebrate the Resurrection of Christ. It also provides an opportunity for individuals to reflect on their lives and their relationship with God as well as others. As the season of Lent begins I encourage everyone to take the opportunity to reflect on and renew their faith.

Finally, during the school holidays we received the sad news that Mr Dominish’s mother Joan had passed away. I ask everyone to keep Mr Dominish and his family in your prayers during this difficult time.

God Bless,

Mr J Lo Cascio
Principal

Lent: A Faith Strengthening Time

Ash Wednesday is the start of the Lenten season. It is a time to strengthen our faith in the crucified Lord. Jesus spent forty days in the desert as a preparation for His mission. In imitation, we spend the time of Lent in thoughtfulness, prayer and discipline.

Lord, help us to bring discipline into our lives so that other people may find You in us.
Create a new heart in me, O Lord

Lord, through Your prayer, we ask You to forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Create a new heart in me O Lord

Lord, direct my thoughts to Your life where I may learn of love, compassion and acceptance
Create a new heart in me O Lord

Lord Jesus, during this Lent may the memory of Your crucified love and the grace of Your risen presence comfort us, set us free, give us hope and make us strong.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

MASS TIMES FOR ASH WEDNESDAY
Good Shepherd, Hoxton Park - 9 am & 7 pm
Holy Spirit, Carnes Hill - 8.15 am & 7pm
St. Francis Xavier, Lurnea - 9.15 am & 7pm
St. Anthony’s, Austral - 9 am & 7 pm

Mr K Griffiths
(Religious Education Co-ordinator)

School Immunisation Program 2008
Sydney South West Area Health Service is conducting two school vaccination programs in high schools in 2008. All students in Year 7 will be offered Hepatitis B and Varicella (Chicken Pox) vaccines. Also, as part of the second phase of the National Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination Program, female students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will be offered HPV vaccine. This vaccine protects against 2 particular types of HPV, which are responsible for causing up to 70 to 80 percent of cervical cancers in Australia.

The first date for the administration of the Hepatitis B and HPV vaccines is Monday 18th February. Further information will be sent home early next week. Parents/carers are asked to read all the information provided, complete the consent form/s and return them to the school if they wish their children to be vaccinated by no later than Friday 8th February. A course of HPV vaccine requires 3 doses and parents/carers will be asked to sign for a full course. Hepatitis B requires 2 doses and separate consent forms will be issued for each dose.

Parents are requested to record their Medicare Number (including the last digit) on the HPV consent form as this is required to record the students health information on the National HPV Vaccination Program Register.

A record of vaccination will be provided to each student under this program which should ensure that this record is kept for future reference.

In the event that a student suffers a reaction to the vaccine, parents should contact their local doctor. Parents who wish to subsequently withdraw their consent for any reason should do so in writing to principal.

Communication
There are various forms of communication at the College and parents are encouraged to be aware of these in order to be fully informed about issues relating to their child’s education.
College Diary
Students should carry their diaries at all times. All homework and assignments are to be recorded in the diary. Teachers and parents can communicate through the diary and it is an expectation that diaries are signed by parents weekly.

Contact with Teachers
If parents have an issue that relates specifically to a subject matter they should contact the subject teacher. Any other issues should be referred to your child’s Pastoral Care teacher either through a letter or by telephone. Your child’s Pastoral Care teacher is ordinarily the first point of contact should any issue arise.

Newsletters
Newsletters contain important information in relation to issues and College activities. These will be distributed in Week 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 of each term.

College Website
The website provides a wide range of general information, College policies, specific information relating to the curriculum together with a section on current and future events.

Leave Requests
Parents and students are reminded that any extended leave that they may be planning within the school year must first be formally acknowledged by the Principal.

For leave to be granted, students must complete an “Application for Leave” form available from the College Office and have it signed by a parent or guardian. Students are then required to complete a detailed list of assessments, examination details or class work and have the KLA Co-ordinator of each subject sign the form before submitting to the principal for approval.

College Vehicle Access - Reminder
The security gates at the College were installed for securing the property and, importantly, to improve student safety. These gates limit access to the College grounds by both vehicles and pedestrians during school hours. Parents are reminded of the arrangements in place for dropping off and collecting students by private vehicles in the morning and afternoon periods.

- Parents wishing to drop students off in the morning are required to turn right at the main roundabout into the bus bay with students alighting from the vehicle in the bus bay.
- In the afternoon, access to the College bus bay for vehicles wishing to pick students up will commence after 3.10 pm. No vehicles will be allowed in the College grounds before this time.
- The main roundabout at the entrance to the College will be “no stopping” at all times. Parents are encouraged to drop students off and pick them up outside the college in order to reduce congestion and increase safety. Your support and co-operation in this important matter is greatly appreciated.

Mr P Brooks
Assistant Principal

Parenting Corner

Here we are again,
Happy as can be
All good friends
And jolly good company.

That little jingle came to mind as I picked up the vibes in the staff room and around the playground on these first few days of our school year 2008 – 10 years since our first students enrolled at Good Samaritan so a very significant year for our school community.

Good Samaritan is a very happy school community. We welcome back all our students and especially our new year 7s and any other newcomers and you their parents. We will do all to ensure that your adolescents’ school days are as happy as possible. We realise not all achieve high academically but we do try to help each realise her/his full potential. It struck me, too, these days to see how important FRIENDSHIPS are, both for adults and the kids. If some weren’t too excited about settling down to the rigours of a learning classroom they were all thrilled to meet up again with their school pals, whom they might not have seen over the holidays.

I look forward to having my regular chats with your adolescents and if I can be of help in any way do not hesitate to contact me.

2008 holds much promise for our students with World Youth Day in July and then the Beijing Olympics so let us treasure each day with all the magic it holds.

God bless,

Sr Marj Carroll
Curriculum

2008 will see change and the inevitable challenge that this creates. Our College theme for the Year “Be the change you desire” calls all of us in the community to have the power of our convictions, actively seeking ways to reach our goals. This will involve striving for every opportunity to utilize expertise, and it will be a collaborative journey….a rollercoaster at times…but will be most fulfilling when we reach our shared goals.

Our 2008 Curriculum goals will continue with last year’s emphasis on differentiating the curriculum to meet every individual student’s needs. This year we will also look at the ways that we can support students in their learning by explicit teaching.

Congratulations Students and Teachers Year 12 2007

Our HSC results were very pleasing, showing improvement over previous years.

- 14% of Year 12 student achieved Band 6.
- Amanda Vella 6th in State for Business Services.
- Students achieved 18 Band 6 results.

A brief breakdown of our results follow:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subjects in which students achieved the top band (Band 6)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community &amp; Family Studies</td>
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</tbody>
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Our students achieved 125 Band 5 Levels of achievement:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subjects in which students achieved Band 5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ancient History</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community &amp; Family Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Mathematics</td>
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<tr>
<td>History Extension</td>
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Subjects in which students achieved above the State average

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subjects in which students achieved above the State average</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ancient History</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community &amp; Family Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>English (Standard)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Technology</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
School Certificate Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of students in bands 4,5,6</th>
<th>English Literacy</th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
<th>Science</th>
<th>Australian History</th>
<th>Australian Geography</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School State</td>
<td>School State</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>44.8</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>70</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2007 there was an improvement in the School Certificate results across Science, Australian History and Geography. In all areas students tended to perform to expectations on the basis of their performance in the ELLA tests in 2004. The College recognises student needs in numeracy and will continue to maintain this as a priority area.

**Year 11 Assessment Information Evening 2008 - Tuesday 5th February**
This is an evening for Year 11 students and their parents, and provides information regarding the responsibility of students in their Preliminary HSC Year. We will provide advice on assessment and suggestions on how to make Year 11 a successful year. It is expected that all Year 11 student attend, accompanied by at least one Parent. Year 11 students will be given a parental note regarding this event, and we ask that the reply slip be completed and returned to your child’s Pastoral Care teacher.

**Year 10 School Certificate Information Evening 2008**
This will be held on Tuesday 19th February. Year 10 students are asked to attend, accompanied by at least one parent. Details will follow shortly.

**Mrs R Jarvis**
Curriculum Co-ordinator

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Staff List—Positions of Responsibility

**Principal** Mr John Lo Cascio  
**Assistant Principal** Mr Paul Brooks  
**Religious Education Co-ordinator** Mr Kevin Griffiths  
**Curriculum Co-ordinator** Mrs Rebecca Jarvis  
**Administration Co-ordinator** Mr Richard Grech  
**Business Manager** Mr John Archer  
**Bursar** Mrs Kerry Logue  
**Creative & Performing Arts Co-ordinator** Ms Tessa Benjamin  
**English Co-ordinator** Mrs Kristina Flanagan  
**HSIE Co-ordinator** Mr David Teuma  
**IT Co-ordinator/Network Manager** Mr Jason Reyes  
**Librarian** Mr Greg Lozelle  
**Teaching and Learning Co-ordinator** Miss Cathy Molloy  
**Mathematics Co-ordinator** Mrs Melanie Cook  
**PDHPE Co-ordinator** Mrs Judith Tolomeo  
**Science Co-ordinator** Mr Tom Bagot  
**Sport Co-ordinator** Mrs Debbie Corner  
**TAS Co-ordinator** Mr Edwar Dinkha  
**Vocational Education** Mr Stephen Berry  
**World Youth Day Co-ordinator** Miss Elizabeth Welsh  
**Year 7 and La Salle House Co-ordinator** Mr Stuart Gray  
**Year 8 and Chisholm House Co-ordinator** Mrs Mary Sayadi  
**Year 9 and Mackillop House Co-ordinator** Ms Michelle Walker  
**Year 10 and Polding House Co-ordinator** Ms Kerryn Morrissey  
**Year 11 and De Paul House Co-ordinator** Mr David Cloran  
**Year 12 and Merici House Co-ordinator** Mr David Costin
Blazer Measuring

All students at Good Samaritan Catholic College are required to have a Blazer by the beginning of Term 2. Students will begin Term 2 (28th April) in full winter uniform.

On Monday 4th February, the College will be holding blazer fittings for all Year 7 students and placing the 2008 order for blazers.

Students in Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 will need to check their blazer size and, if a new blazer is required, there will be a time made available for these students to also be fitted on Monday 4th February.

The current prices are:

Boys Blazer: Youth $150.00 Size 10 - 17
Mens $160.00 Size 5 – 10
Girls Blazer: $140.00

If any Year 7 student already has a blazer, they should let the office staff know so that a blazer is not automatically ordered.

Parents will be required to pay for the blazer before they can be collected in the last week of Term 1.

Book Packs

If there are any problems with the Endeavour Education book packs, which were issued on Thursday 31st January, please call Endeavour Education on telephone 9709 0000. Please do not call the school, as the school does not have access to any of Endeavour’s paperwork.

College Fees and Charges 2008

Along with this week’s newsletter is a booklet detailing College fees and charges for each year group for 2008. Fees and charges increase in line with the CPI and this year have increased by 2.4%. The College Building Levy has not increased this year and has remained unchanged for three years.

Mr J Archer, Business Manager

Canteen

Ash Wednesday
falls on the 6th February. There will be no meat available on this day from the canteen. An alternative menu will be available.

Welcome and thank you to all our new mum volunteers.