Dear Parents and Friends of the college

The preparations for World Youth Day are well underway and I thank everyone for their willingness to support the event, as a pilgrim, a volunteer, a homestay supporter or through the walkathon. This is certainly a very exciting time in the life of the Catholic Church in Australia and I ask that everyone prays for the success of the event both in July and beyond. Anyone who is involved in WYD should have received information in terms of involvement. If this has not occurred, please contact the relevant person at the college.

Last week the college community came together for the walkathon. At the outset, the goal was to reach a target of $30,000. With the splendid efforts of the community, we have been promised just over our target. I wish to thank the students and their families for the wonderful efforts to raise the funds. I also acknowledge and thank all of those parents and sponsors who were able to help with or contribute to the day. I especially acknowledge the efforts of Mr Cloran and Mr Wheeler for the organization and smooth running of the event. The task now is to ensure that all funds promised are returned to the college before the end of term. I ask that all parents and students support us in ensuring that this occurs.

Today I had the pleasure of attending the Pierre de Coubertin Awards. This award was presented to Andrew El-Zakhem our College Captain. The award recognises “A student who, through their participation, demonstrates attributes of fair play and respect for others”. Andrew has certainly done this during his time at the college and is a worthy recipient of this award.

Tonight the College will host the finals of the SWCCDA. The College has two teams in the finals with the Year 8 and Senior Teams being successful. I congratulate all students who have been involved in debating this term. They have displayed a willingness to use their talents well and have represented the college in a fine manner. I thank the teachers who coached the teams and acknowledge the Debating Coordinator Mr O’Sullivan for the tremendous work done with the students this term. Finally, I acknowledge Mr Dominish for the overall coordination of the whole competition. He has been able to provide a well organised extra curricular experience for our students.

Next week the college will conduct Parent/ Teacher/ Student Interviews for students in Years 7—10. The interviews, in conjunction with semester reports, provide an opportunity for parents and students to gain greater insights into student performance. It is essential that parents and students attend one of the sessions as any feedback will be valuable in improving student achievement over the coming semester.

Next Thursday at our assembly, the college will acknowledge Naidoc Week. (Naidoc Week is actually celebrated from July 6 to 13 which is during the school holidays.) This year’s theme is “Advance Australia Fair?” and is posed to allow us to reflect on the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders. As we showcase our nation to the world, through World Youth Day, Naidoc week provides us with an opportunity to once again highlight the contribution of Indigenous peoples to Australia.

At the end of next week the college will farewell Miss Streeter who will be leaving to take up a teaching appointment in Hong Kong. I thank Miss Streeter for her contribution to the Mathematics department and the college as a whole. I am sure that the whole community will join with me in wishing her well in the future. Mrs Bernadette Stivala will replace Miss Streeter from next term and Mr Georgiou has been appointed assistant Mathematics Coordinator in Miss Streeter’s place.
I wish everyone a safe and restful holiday and encourage all to take advantage of the World Youth Day Celebrations leading up to World Youth Day.

God Bless

Mr J Lo Cascio
Principal

A Concerning Issue

Over the course of this year there have been a number of items that have gone missing from students lockers and bags, which appear to have been stolen. It is unfortunate that some students are not as honest as we would like to believe and take things which do not belong to them. Clearly this is an intolerable practice in any community and especially in a Catholic School.

It is also disappointing to note that students are able to be in possession of expensive items e.g. mobile phones, ipods and items of clothing and are not questioned by their parents. I ask parents to be aware of new items of which students may be in possession, as at times they have procured these through inappropriate means.

Stealing is not acceptable under any circumstance and is an illegal action. Students who are caught stealing will be treated harshly as this practice violates the rights of others.

It is important that students inform someone if they feel an item has been stolen or they are aware that others may have been involved in theft. This is one way to ensure that it does not occur. Another way to reduce the incidence of theft is to emphasise to students that they must accept responsibility for looking after their property, ensuring that it is appropriately labeled and locked away.

It is very unfortunate that a minority of individuals involve themselves in unsavoury and deplorable actions. However, it is up to the majority to ensure that this does not happen by taking positive action. I ask everybody to be aware of this issue and take appropriate steps to ensure that Good Samaritan is a place where all individual rights, including those in relation to property, are respected.

Mr J Lo Cascio

Parent-Teacher-Student Interviews

Next week there will be the opportunity for parents of students in Years 7 to 10 to meet with each of the teachers of their son(s) / daughter(s). Three separate occasions will be available for these interviews. Students in Chisholm, De Paul and La Salle houses will have their interviews between 3.30pm and 8.00pm on Tuesday, 1st July whilst students from the MacKillop, Merici and Polding houses can make interviews between 3.30pm and 8.00pm on Thursday, 3rd July. Alternatively, any student can make an appointment with teachers between 9.00am and 3.00pm on Friday, 4th July. This will be a pupil free day. A letter and booking sheet has been provided to each student to facilitate the booking of interview times. It is an expectation that at least one parent from each family attend these interviews accompanied by their child in uniform. The College policy regarding school reports is that they are issued to parents from the college office prior to them attending their interviews. Please ensure that time is allowed for the collection of the report prior to the first appointment time.

Term 3 Dates

Due to the conclusion of World Youth Day activities all schools within the Archdiocese of Sydney will be closed on Monday, 21st July. In addition Tuesday, 22nd July will be set aside as a day for making all of the necessary arrangements to ensure that the school is in readiness for normal classes to resume on the following day. This means that the first day for students in Term 3 will be Wednesday, 23rd July (Day 3).

Staff Development Day

As part of the college’s commitment to an effective transition program for students entering high school a combined staff development day has been organised with our colleagues from Good Shepherd Primary, Hoxton Park on Friday, 1st August. On this day the staff from both schools will continue to explore the curriculum linkages between primary and high school syllabus documents and teaching and learning programs. Parents are asked to contact the college immediately if they are unable to arrange suitable alternative care for their children on this pupil free day.

Congratulations

Recently the college received some extremely favourable feedback from several external providers who were working with our students. Nicki James from the Warragamba Dam education centre called the school to compliment the Year 10 students on their excellent behaviour and commitment during their recent site visit to the dam as part of their Australian Geography course. Also, all of our Year 8 students were highly commended for their co-operation, involvement and exemplary standards of behaviour during a recent English incursion held at the college. It is always pleasing to receive such positive and affirming feedback, especially from people who work regularly with large numbers of school students. For them to take the time to highlight the excellent standards displayed by our students is a tremendous credit and these students are to be warmly congratulated.

Mr P Brooks
Assistant Principal

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Julia Fahmi on her selection in the CASPA ensembles who will be performing during World Youth Day and to Nicholas Jovanovic who will represent the Indigenous Community also on World Youth Day.

Clancy Award Recipients

Julie Labuguen, Bruno Romeo and Frankie Siciliano

From the Principal...continued

From the Assistant Principal
Dear Parents and Friends

One of the big challenges for parents sending their children to a Catholic School is to question their own motives in doing so.

Don’t get me wrong...it is not a bad thing and hopefully will contribute to the social, moral, intellectual and spiritual development of your children, whatever the motive. But what exactly are you seeking?

The teachers/staff can only build on the foundations already existing and rely heavily on your support as they set about the noble task of educating your children in accordance with the Mission Statement of the college.

While committed to “holistic education” it is in the context of the Gospels. Good results and discipline (both widely sought after) are important in an institution that is committed to “quality education”, but so too is the Gospel imperative of compassion, a spirit of service, a sense of justice and a search for truth.

The values and spirituality that the college fosters is unapologetically Catholic. We depend on your support of these values if you truly want a Good Samaritan education to have any impact on your children.

Of course, the best contribution you can make is to live out these values yourself. Your example is the most powerful message you can convey to your children.

Every success.

Br Colin

Parenting Tip

Over the next few weeks “Parenting Tips Ten Priorities” will be included in the newsletter. One more is included in today's newsletter.

Tip No. 4

Be honest about the underlying values in one’s life

Give best example in everything.

“It's amazing how high some parents put the crossbar for their kids and how low they put it for themselves”. (Jack Gibson. Rugby League Coach)

“Children of drunkards cannot walk straight in mind or in body”. (Plato)

- Model optimism and a life of faith in front of every difficulty, large or small.
- Model problem solving and critical thinking.
- Your child needs to see you pray and go regularly to the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.
- Be a person who likes being with people. Agree with your wife to have families over every week.
- Model self control. Model calm tenacity in the face of difficulties.

Walkathon 2008

The lead up to the walkathon this year was a very promising one with the college surpassing our target of $30000 in funds raised two days prior to the event. This impressive total is a credit to the efforts of so many of our students who went above and beyond the expectations of the college. These funds will go a long way to help and support the Good Samaritan pilgrims during World Youth Day and to update a number of ICT facilities at the college.

The walkathon itself was just as successful as the students fund raising efforts. Despite commencing under cloudy skies, students completed a 14km track to the Ash Road Park before returning to the college where they were supplied with lunch. Some students made the most of an opportunity to finish school early for the week while many others danced the afternoon away in the P-block quad. All students are certainly congratulated on the effort, spirit and enthusiasm in which they entered into the days events.

I would like to take the opportunity to our thank our sponsors and all the helpers who were kind enough to donate so much of their spare time by assisting with the catering on the day. These helpers spent the majority of the morning preparing enough food to feed well over 1000 people and without such support, the day would not have been as successful as it was.

Finally I would like to remind the students that there is still well over $1000 worth of prizes to be given away following the success of the walkathon. It has been requested that all students who have not done so already, submit their committed totals to the front office collection points by the end of term. This will ensure that the funds are put to good use early and that all of the prizes for the walkathon can be awarded during the school assembly in week 1 term 3.

Congratulations to all students on their efforts so far.

Mr D Cloran

SPECIAL THANK YOU

TO OUR WALKATHON SPONSORS
Mr Adrian Smith—Tip Top Bakery
Mrs Francis Piccolo—Art of Gelato Michelangelo
and
Mr & Mrs J Campisi—Campisi Butchery

TO OUR HELPERS
Miss Jane Colley
Mrs Leeanne Dwarte
Mrs Rita Criniti
Mrs Loretta La Rosa
Ms Angela Froio
and
Mrs Caterina Ussia
Tuesday 1st July
Yr 7-10 Parent/Teacher/Student interviews
Chisholm, De Paul & La Salle

Thursday 3rd July
MacKillop, Merici & Polding
Yr 7-10 Parent/Teacher/Student interviews

Friday 4th July
Yr 7-10 Parent/Teacher/Student interviews

4th July
Pupil Free Day
Term 2 ends

Tuesday 15th July 2008
World Youth Week begins

20th July 2008
World Youth Day Mass

22nd July
Staff Return

23rd July
Term 3 begins

CANTEEN HELP

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<tr>
<td>MONDAY 30 JUNE</td>
<td>A. Testa, M. Macri</td>
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<td>TUESDAY 1 JULY</td>
<td>D. Beazley, A Pipicella</td>
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<td>D. Caruana, D. Segatto, R. Romeo</td>
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