Dear Parents and Friends of the College

Welcome back to Semester 2. The holidays are generally a quiet time in the life of a school, however, the previous two weeks have certainly been the exception. World Youth Day week has been very full and had a significant impact on the college community. Our teachers and students were involved as pilgrims, our parents, staff and students were involved as volunteers and we accommodated pilgrims from Papua New Guinea, Canada, Lesotho and Switzerland. Not to be forgotten, our parents who were able to be part of homestay, offered support to pilgrims in their own homes.

One thing that each of these groups had in common was the wonderful spirit in which each entered the event. Many people have commented on World Youth Day and the words most commonly used were faith, community and spirit.

Faith, community and spirit were evident in the many stories shared, such as: the willingness of pilgrims from different countries to welcome and join with our students in prayer in the streets of Sydney, the learnings at catechism, the willingness of our students to reach out to the pilgrims (Kate Gerrish and Samantha Criniti of Year 11 accompanied 90 Papua New Guineans for a whole day, for fear that they would get lost and not find their way back to the college). Nicholas Jovanovic who represented the indigenous population on many occasions from welcoming the Pope to being part of the “Stations of the Cross”. Julia Fahmi who was involved in the CaSPa performances during WYD Week. The staff, parents and students who arrived to help with breakfast between 6 and 6.30 am each morning, and who also helped with the welcome and farewell events, the staff who stayed at school overnight to ensure the comfort and safety of students and finally those who allowed themselves to be touched by the Spirit. I am very appreciative and proud of the efforts of everyone who made a contribution to the success of World Youth Day. I offer my sincere thanks to all involved especially our World Youth Day Coordinator Miss Welsh.

As I reflect on the event itself I also am very grateful for the experience afforded to all those involved. This was truly an inspiring, faith filled and spiritual event. It was a most moving faith experience for many and has allowed them to examine their approach to their faith. The Holy Spirit has certainly allowed us to receive the power and in many ways to be true witnesses of Christ. It is my hope that we continue to examine our approach to our faith and to seek ways which will enable each of us to spread the Word of God and to grow closer to our God in the light of our World Youth Day experiences.

I give thanks for the experiences of World Youth Day Week and pray that the Holy Spirit continues to inspire the faith, community and spirit evident during the week.

As we approach semester two I once again ask each student to examine their approach to school in the light of reports and parent teacher nights. I also ask students to consider what their best is. I still feel that many of our students are satisfied with a mediocre approach which, means that near enough to their best, is good enough. At Good Samaritan we need to promote a
Hello again – it’s my turn this term. A big thank you to Br Colin for sharing his wisdom with you during the past term, I have big shoes to fill.

However this first chat is easy because what else to talk about but the wonderful success of our World Youth Week. PEACE, HARMONY, LOVE, TOGETHERNESS, JOY, EXUBERANCE, PRAYER, INSPIRATION. I could go on forever but many other writers of this newsletter will no doubt be giving their own perspective. It was surely a privilege to be present among the pilgrims on the home scene and then to mingle with the thousands at the big events. I’m sure you felt happy that your young pilgrims and other children were able to be a part of it all as well and they will treasure those memories for a lifetime.

Everyone was enjoying the atmosphere without the usual accompaniment of drugs, drink, smoking, which are the usual triggers for violence, sex and crime. The police have reported it was the quietest week they have had in ages; so full marks to our youth in particular in the way they conducted themselves. In the early Church they had a saying “see how these Christians love one another “ and that was surely borne out last week.

Having our beloved Pope Benedict, or BXVI, as he texted himself to the youth on their mobiles !! with us here in Sydney was a BLESSING of a LIFETIME. He exuded such a warm, friendly, serene, presence , that spoke of such a prayerful, holy man and to many he was a real, personal, grandfatherly figure that many lack in today’s fragmented society.

So I guess it is up to us now to keep this wonderful SPIRIT ALIVE. Wishing you every blessing to do just that.

Sr Marj
Can't contain the excitement of something new.

**CANTEEN HELP**

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<th>Date</th>
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<td><strong>Monday 28th July</strong></td>
<td>E. Hobby, J. Colley</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday 29th July</strong></td>
<td>L. La Rosa, D. Toro</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday 30th July</strong></td>
<td>R. Criniti, G. Baretta</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday 31st July</strong></td>
<td>G. Gerrish, A. Demasi, R. Origlia</td>
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<td><strong>Friday 1st August</strong></td>
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<td>J. Short, F. Oselli</td>
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<td>A. Waga, C. Kairuz, A. Spadaro</td>
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<td>L. Dwarte, A. Marcias</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday 7th August</strong></td>
<td>G. Gerrish, S. Lichaa</td>
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<td><strong>Friday 8th August</strong></td>
<td>R. Parker, Q. Lan Hoang, A. Pipicella</td>
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**Year 9 Photography & Digital Media**

Over the past term and a half our Year 9 PDM applications class has been working on a variety of things. Our main one was the photogram.

Learning about the photogram process was very interesting and exciting as most of our class had never done this task or worked in the darkroom before. Each person created a different photogram that had a theme to it and used different materials. It was fascinating to see how many designs that we could come up with and how different they all were from each other.

We really enjoyed the photogram work that we did in this class and found it to be a very interesting and fun new experience. The photogram work gave us an insight into working in the darkroom for the first time and was a good building block for the great things that we are sure are about to come for us in photography.

Through doing the photograms, we were also able to discover all of the objects in the darkroom and learn how to set all of it up. We can find our way around it now and are able to work well in the dark. Little direction is needed for us to be able to do the task that are required of us in the darkroom.

The class thoroughly enjoyed this task and look forward to the rest of photography over the next year and a half before we finish this course.

By Lauren Smith & Issy Hanlon
Yr 9 PDM students

**Year 9 Science – Project: Stars!**

In Science last term, 9.1 and 9.6 have been working on a mini project about Stars in the universe.

9.1 created Hertzsprung-Russell Diagrams (HR Diagrams) that show where specific stars like our Sun are found in the universe based on their temperature, luminosity and colour.

9.6 then used these diagrams to construct a 3D model of the HR Diagram out on the playground using chalk and themselves representing stars like Vega, Spica, Capella and Betelegeuse. Special thanks and congratulations to Fabian Zoccoli and Stephanie Assaf who led the 9.6 group to success!

9.1 have also worked on telling the stories of the ‘Life Cycle of Stars’ by creating Star Family Photo Albums. The creative flair displayed by some of these students was outstanding. Some students opted to make DVD movies (Erika, Elisa, Jema, Mark) and Flash Presentations (William, Bruno) which demonstrated their excellent skills using computer technologies available at home and at school. Other students chose something more hands-on like a Photo Album Scrapbook (Zoe) and a Pop-up Photo Album (Pierre).

The amount of work that went into these presentations was very much appreciated by students in 9.6 who watched them in awe. No doubt they will take these ideas and make their own albums just as interesting this term.

Thanks to all students in 9.1 and 9.6 who presented their science work last term. ‘Project: Stars’ has been a very worthwhile learning experience.

Ms. Penina Barry
Science Teacher
Memories of WYD pilgrims hosted by Good Samaritan
Memories of World Youth Day in Sydney
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DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday 30th July
Yr 11 Parent/Teacher/Student interviews

Friday 1st August
Staff Development Day—PUPIL FREE DAY

Monday 4th August
Year 11, 2009 Information Evening

Monday 4th–18th August
HSC Trial Examinations

Thursday 14th August
Year 11, 2009 interviews

Monday 18th August
School Athletics Carnival

Tuesday 19th August
NSW CCC Netball Gala Day

Tuesday 19th August
Year 9, 2009 Information Evening