Dear Parents and Friends of the College

Last Friday, the Good Samaritan teachers met with teachers from Good Shepherd to consider student progression from Kindergarten to Year 10. The day had as its focus: the K-10 Curriculum framework, topics taught in the K-10 curriculum in each subject area, literacy teaching at the primary school level, a focus on Visual Arts and Science at the high school level and an understanding of the requirements of NAPLAN. The event proved to be a very positive experience for teachers from both schools and will lead to some changes in approaches to student learning. It also provided a greater understanding of the educational journey of our students, from the beginning of their schooling through to high school.

I take this opportunity to thank all teachers who were involved in different presentations during the staff development day and I especially acknowledge Miss Molloy and Miss Maciano (from Good Shepherd ) for the planning and the coordination of a most rewarding day.

Last week the Year 11 Parent Teacher Student interviews were conducted, which were the last for Semester One. I acknowledge and thank all of those parents and students who took advantage of the opportunity to gain a greater insight into the performance of individual students at each of the evenings.

I am concerned however, that a number of students and parents did not attend the interviews, either at the end of last term or the beginning of this term. I emphasise that these evenings are a very good means of communication and provide greater feedback to students than simply the report alone. I stress to those parents and students who did not attend the Parent Teacher Student interviews that it is an expectation of the college that every student attends these evenings with at least one parent. Those parents who were unable to attend should make contact with the relevant Year coordinator to make arrangements to collect their child’s reports and contact their teachers.

Last Monday the college conducted an Information Evening for students wishing to enroll in Year 11 in 2009. It was made obvious to students, that as they move into the senior study, that the level of work and commitment to study must increase significantly. Often students are not aware of this and they struggle to meet the demands of senior years. With this in mind it is important that good habits are established in the early years of high school, so that the impact of senior years is not as drastic.

As we begin Semester Two, I encourage all students to establish a regular and systematic study routine in junior years. If students do not have set homework they should work on assignments or revise work covered that day or on previous days to consolidate their learning. The following homework hours are recommended for students: Years 7 and 8 undertake one to one and one half hours, Years 9 and 10 one and a half to two hours and Years 11 and 12 two to three hours.

At present the college is planning an information evening for parents, which will focus on helping students to study. This will be conducted in late Term 3 or early Term 4.
From the Principal...continued

This week the students in Year 12 began their Trial Higher School Certificate Examinations. This is the final exam period before the Higher School Certificate Examinations. I trust that everyone will keep Year 12 in their thoughts and prayers during this important time in their school life.

Today is the feast day of Blessed Mary MacKillop. Mary MacKillop is an example to each of us and has been a source of inspiration to many people in difficult circumstances. I encourage all individuals to pray to Mary MacKillop to intercede for them in times of need.

MARY MACKILLOP PRAYER

Most loving God,
We thank you for the example of Blessed Mary MacKillop,
who in her living of the Gospel witnessed to the human dignity of each person.
She faced life’s challenges with faith and courage.
We pray through her intercession for our needs........
May her holiness soon be acknowledged by the universal Church.
We make this prayer through Jesus the Lord.
Amen.

God Bless

Mr J Lo Cascio
Principal

NSW School Students Health Behaviours Survey

The college has been randomly selected to be part of the 2008 NSW School Students Health Behaviours Survey. The survey is conducted with over 300 schools and 25,000 secondary students. Eighty students from Years 7 to 10 will be selected and invited to complete this survey in the latter part of second term. Further details and a consent form will be sent home shortly to those students who will be given the opportunity to be involved.

Mr P Brooks, Assistant Principal

NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK
3RD-10TH AUGUST

Every year in August, the Church in Australia celebrates National Vocations Awareness Week. This is a specific opportunity for parishes, schools and groups to focus on vocations in the Church today. On the first Sunday, we focus on the universal call to holiness—everybody has a vocation because everyone is called by God, and there are countless ways that people can live out their vocation.

On the second Sunday of August, we focus on the specific vocations of Priesthood and Religious Life—in the midst of all possible vocations, God calls some men and women to follow Him through a call to complete service to the Church.

We remember the words of Saint Matthew:
“Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me and anyone who welcomes me also welcomes the one who sent me”. We recognise the unselfish work of our religious brothers and sisters and pray for their continual trust in the Lord.

Prayer: God, ever faithful and true, strengthen all the religious men and women who work for your kingdom. May their loyalty and faith in you, remind us of our constant need for prayer in our world. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord and God. Amen.

THE ASSUMPTION—AUGUST 15

On August 15, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Assumption. We honour Mary, a sign of hope and holiness. In hope we pray that this broken world may one day be made whole.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke:
When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, her baby moved within her. The Holy Spirit came upon Elizabeth. Then in a loud voice she said to Mary: “God has blessed you more than any other women. He has also blessed the child you will have. The Lord has blessed you because you believe he will keep his promise”. The Gospel of the Lord.

We Pray: Glorious God, may we follow Mary’s example of holiness and live with hope in our hearts. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

From the Assistant Principal

Student Safety

The college has recently been contacted by members of the public who have expressed their concerns regarding the safety of students from Good Samaritan. It would seem apparent from the information received that students are crossing Wilson Road in front of a steady stream of traffic, often without due regard for their own well being. Although requests have previously been made to install a pedestrian crossing in this area we have been advised that this is unlikely to occur due to the close proximity of other marked crossings. As a consequence, parents are advised to make arrangements for dropping off and picking up their sons and daughters in a location and manner that ensures that they are not placed at risk of injury.
Dear Parents

Welcome back to our Third Term. Hopefully the holidays were safe and enjoyable and afforded you and your children some quality time together.

I thought to begin the new term it could be good to start with some words about ENCOURAGEMENT. We all need it and especially our adolescents; so Michael Grose offers the following strategies to help promote a sense of CONFIDENCE and SELF-ESTEEM:

1. **Give children realistic responsibility.** Through our actions we are giving them the message: ‘I know that you can do this.’

2. **Point out children’s strengths and achievements.** When correcting a child or pointing out an error focus on a strength first.

3. **Recognise improvement they have made or effort they are putting in at school or at home.** Every child needs someone in their life who says I know you can do this.

4. **Express your confidence and faith in their abilities.** If you need a reminder to encourage your child consciously develop the habit of offering a positive remark when they leave for school in the morning and when you say good night at bedtime.

Sometimes adolescents can give the impression that they are “full of themselves” but underneath it all they are very vulnerable and insecure as they begin to find their way into our adult world. What they need is for us to GIVE THEM HEART, which is the meaning of the word ENCOURAGEMENT.

If there is anyway I can be of help, don’t hesitate to contact me at the school – that is what I am there for!

God bless you in all your efforts,

Sr Marj

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**Year 11 2009 Subject Selection Interviews**

The interviews for current Year 10 students regarding subject selection for Year 11 2009 will be held on **THURSDAY 14 AUGUST**. Students should have made an appointment with their designated teacher for this evening. Students please remember to bring to the interview the last Year 10 Report, Skills and Talent Sheet and Subject Choice Form.

**Year 9 2009 Elective Information Evening**

An Information Evening for Year 8 students moving into Year 9 2009 will be held on **TUESDAY 19 AUGUST** commencing at 7pm. All Year 8 students must attend this evening accompanied by, at least one parent.

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**Reflections on World Youth Day from our Community**

As I reflect back on the wonderful events that WYD08 managed to jam pack into one full on week, I remember it being a most colourful experience. The flags of international countries waving high in the air, the excited buzz of foreign languages proclaiming a common faith and the faces of those who came together to unite as one. The youth of the Church underwent spiritual renewal; one which could only occur once in a lifetime. Personally, I recall the emotional encounter of being a witness to the Stations of the Cross. It made the crucifixion of Christ so real and alive to me. The feeling I received will remain in my heart forever. The arrival of the Pope sent a wave of excitement and love for Christianity through the atmosphere which was already thriving off the Holy Spirit by this time. The Papal Mass was extraordinary. Having the chance to mingle with those who share the same beliefs and values as me was exceptionally memorable. It made me realise that it didn’t matter what part of the world we come from, peace and togetherness can be achieved through having faith. WYD-08 will never be forgotten. It will continue to inspire my faith for the rest of my days.

World Youth Week is and always will be a dearly treasured experience that has heightened my Faith and my knowledge of the religious aspects in my daily life. The overwhelming aura and vibe of Sydney’s most holy and devout week will stay alive not only in Australia but in the heart’s of pilgrims across the world. I am utterly most thankful for the opportunity God has set for our youth, allowing us to discover the Holy Spirit in every race, age and gender emphasising our Lord’s acceptance of all. We are all called to be children of God and I will definitely be attending World Youth Week in Madrid in 2011.

World Youth Day in Sydney 2008 was the most amazing experience I have ever had in my life. The week of exciting festivities, including the Opening Mass, Catechesis, the Pope arriving at the harbour, the Stations of the Cross, the sleep out and the Closing Mass showed me that there are many different ways to embrace your faith such as prayers, songs and even staying up all night in the freezing cold with millions of pilgrims just to sing about Jesus. The energy and participation of millions of young Catholics in this week was amazing. I never thought that World Youth Day would have been so fun and crazy as it turned out to be. I absolutely enjoyed this whole week of great activities but I particularly enjoyed being at the harbour every night, seeing all the different flags held by the pilgrims and embracing all the different cultures. Meeting pilgrims from all over the world who have the same beliefs and learning their languages was a great highlight in the fantastic week. I loved World Youth Day and I now have memories that will live with me forever. It was definitely the best week I have ever had and I will love to go again in Spain in 3 years and the best part was we got to see the Pope up close and celebrate an inspiring Mass with him.

BENEDICTO!
**Athletics Carnival**

A reminder to parents that the college will conduct the Annual Athletics Carnival at Campbelltown on August 18.

All parents are most welcome and those who wish to offer support with timekeeping or recording are encouraged to contact Mrs Corner at the college.

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**Technology News**

**Digital Education Revolution**

The Federal Government’s funding scheme to provide technology resources to students in Years 9 to 12 is currently under review at the College. As part of this review, a number of surveys will be conducted across the College community. I encourage parents and students to complete a quick online survey on the College web site, which will provide us with further information for the effective delivery of technology resources for our students. The web site address for the survey is: www.goodsamaritan.nsw.edu.au/preview/survey.htm

**Walkathon Funding for ICT Resources - Update**

I am pleased to announce that the funds we collected from the recent College Walkathon have been used to purchase brand new computer workstations for the College Library. These new computers will provide a greater opportunity for our students to access technology resources for their learning. The new computers are due to arrive by the middle of the term.

Mr J Reyes IT Coordinator

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**Year 9 Camp Notice**

The Year 9 camp will take place on Wednesday 5th November to Friday 7th November. The cost of this camp is $215 which can now be paid in instalments. Please ensure the Student’s Name, Pastoral Class and instalment amount is on the front of an envelope and this envelope is to be handed into the College Office.

More details will be forwarded to parents soon!

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**Parenting Tips**

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. 5**

**Affection**

*Give unconditional love and encouragement*

“Every piece of research on effective childhood socialisation identifies two broad parameters, emotional support (affection) and limit setting...” Prof. Don Edgar RMIT Centre for Workplace Culture Change)

- The reality is that dads often need to work harder to connect with their kids.
- Listen. Give focussed attention.
- Do things together, preferably things you both enjoy.

**Tip No. 6**

**Don’t indulge your kids**

“All the surveys show that beyond a certain level of income, happiness doesn’t increase” (John Menadue Things you learn on the way)

- Teach that people are more important than things.
- Teach that relationships are the bedrock of happiness in life.
- Remember: affection is shown less in material gifts and more in time and interest.
- Better holidays are not necessarily more expensive holi-

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**Mock Trial**

The college mock trial team entered into the Law Societies Mock Trial competition. The team competed in the round robin section, winning 2 trials and narrowly being defeated in one. Fortunately we did enough to get into the elimination round. This round was held on Thursday at school, where we competed against Hurlstone Agricultural College. Unfortunately we lost the trial by 15 points. Congratulations to all team members on a great effort this year. Well done!

The team is: Elizabeth Camilleri, Mariecar Capilli, Adam Cosgrove, Kayla Arndell, Natasha Ishaac, Anthony Thepsombandith, Kyrah Hogarth, DanielleMcPherson and criselda Reyes.

Thanks also to Bruno Romeo for filling in the 4th round.

Mr D Costin

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**Year 9 and 10 Rugby League Report**

Due to wet weather, the first round of the MISA Rugby League Competition was postponed and the boys from the team were pumped up for Game 2. The game started at a fast pace with Alfonso Henry and John Kennedy both crossing for first half tries. The boys continued the second half as they finished the first, and once again John Kennedy broke through the line of defence with a magnificent intercept. Joseph Romolo and Anthony Pellegrini later on in the game also scored, with Anthony Pellegrini converting both tries on debut. The game finished, and the boys won 24-14, they were happy with the win, and can hopefully carry their form into Game 3.

John Fahmi
CAREERS NEWS

Liverpool and Green Valley Area Commands Work Experience
From Monday, September 15th to Thursday, September 18th, a series of talks and workshops will be held for students interested in a policing career. It will be a busy schedule, culminating in a trip to Goulburn Police College. Only two students from each school in the area served by these commands can be accepted due to limited spaces available. Interested students must submit a 500 word essay about why they want a career in the police force no later than Thursday, August 21st.

Sign Up For A Job Day
Liverpool Workplace Learning and a number of local employers have cooperated to organise this event, where school leavers from the Liverpool region can apply for and be interviewed for local traineeships and apprenticeships. Many students have already applied and are now preparing resumes and letters. Mrs Hewitt

University Experience at ACU
Held at Strathfield campus on Tuesday, September 30th and Wednesday, October 1st, and at North Sydney campus on Thursday, October 2nd, this program offers the opportunity to experience a day of university life through interactive sessions in Arts, Business, Early Childhood, Education, Environmental Science, Exercise Science, Visual Arts and Design, World religion and Student Life. Register your interest at www.acu.edu.au/universityexperience

Voice for Jack
The VOICE FOR JACK charity was established after a succession of tragedies endured by the Chapple family of South Western Sydney and members of the Good Samaritan Community. The purpose of the fund is to raise awareness and funds to provide essential therapy for their son Jack.

Jack was born a normal child, developing like any other child until he reached the age of two. Between the ages of two and two and a half, Jack lost all of language and communication skills for no apparent reason. The family endured an exhausting and costly five months of tests on young Jack between August and December in an effort to diagnose his condition. Much to the family’s dismay it was discovered that Jack had suffered from a number of brain seizures leading to the loss of these skills. Jack was diagnosed with autism.

The VOICE OF JACK charity fund seeks you assistance to kindly donate cash or any goods that can be auctioned/raffled off at a charity function which will be held on the 6th September 2008. Any support would certainly be appreci-
GOOD SAMARITAN
CATHOLIC COLLEGE
HINCHINBROOK
401 Hoxton Park Road, Hinchinbrook NSW 2168 - PO Box 444, Hoxton Park NSW 2171
Phone: (02) 9825 9955 - Fax: (02) 9825 9966
Email: admin@goodsamaritan.nsw.edu.au
Web: www.goodsamaritan.nsw.edu.au

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De Paul Assembly

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

Wednesday 20th August
Year 12 Major Work Night

Tuesday 26th August
Sports Photos

GSCC Breakfast Club News

Every Thursday and Friday mornings 7.45am to 8.20am breakfast is being served from the canteen by our friendly volunteers of the Breakfast Club.

Come down and enjoy English muffins, toast, cereal, hot chocolate, flavoured milk or juice.

START YOUR DAY WITH A HEALTHY BREAKFAST.

SEE YOU THERE!!

World Youth Day Thank You’s

Thank you to all those who gave time to support the pilgrims at the college during World Youth Day.

A very big thank you to all the volunteers who turned up in the early morning during World Youth Week to help serve breakfast to our Pilgrims.

I especially acknowledge the Colombo family for their donation of Pasta and Les Gazzard for the donation of juice and milk.