GOOD SAMARITAN
CATHOLIC COLLEGE
HINCHINBROOK

NEWSLETTER

COLLEGE THEME 2008: “Be The Change You Desire”

Issue 15  Friday, 5 September 2008

Dear Parents and Friends of the College

Last week I had the pleasure of attending the Archbishop’s Awards for Student Excellence. These awards are presented to one student in each Catholic School in the Archdiocese of Sydney. The aim of the Award is to highlight the very positive contribution that young people make to their school and local communities. This year the Good Samaritan recipient of this Award is Maryann Wright. The following is the citation which was read by Natasha Perre at St Mary’s Cathedral last week:

“Maryann Wright is a dedicated, considerate and responsible student who has served on the senior leadership team and has been actively involved in the college’s social justice World Youth Day and liturgical groups. She has been publicly acknowledged for academic achievements, academic effort, and involvement in representative sports, public speaking and Mock Trial. Maryann is involved in her parish as a Eucharistic minister, a reader, musician and singer, she is also involved in the Liverpool Youth Council and was the 2007 Liverpool Quota Student of The Year. Maryann supports social justice initiatives by raising the awareness of the community in relation to various issues and through committed fund raising”.

I congratulate Maryann and her family on this wonderful achievement.

Friday September 19 is Good Samaritan Day, which is an opportunity to celebrate all that is good in our community and to reach out to others in a tangible manner. This year the celebration is especially significant as it incorporates the acknowledgement of our tenth year. I am certainly looking forward to this community celebration and take this opportunity to invite all parents and carers who wish to be involved with us, to join us on the day. The Mass will begin at 9 am followed by morning tea, fund raising activities and a concert to conclude events.

As a further recognition of the tenth year of the college we will be holding a dinner dance on October 31. This dance will provide an opportunity for teachers, parents and ex students to celebrate all our college has achieved over the past 10 years. An invitation and details are included in this newsletter.

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Recently there have been a number of instances of images or texts on student’s mobile phones or ipods that have been most inappropriate. As Catholics we all have a responsibility to avoid this material to guard our dignity, and protect the dignity of others, especially those who through no fault of their own are placed in a position where they are unable to protect themselves. I ask parents to be willing to challenge your sons and daughters in relation to the contents of their mobile phones or ipods and to ensure they do not access such material. I also urge you to read the article written by Mr Brooks in this newsletter.

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JOURNEYING WITH COMPASSION
From the Principal...continued

Over the last two weeks the practical component of the Higher School Certificate has begun in earnest at the college. The Drama students have completed their practical component as have the Music students. The Italian students are undertaking the oral component of their exams next week and all major works in Visual Arts, Design and Technology and Textiles and Design have been completed. Year 12 students are now concentrating their efforts on the upcoming Higher School Certificate examinations. Once again, I remind our Year 12 students that they have the support of the college community as they continue towards the Higher School Certificate Examinations.

Next week our Year 11 students will begin their end of Preliminary Higher School Certificate Examinations. These examinations will conclude the Preliminary Higher School Certificate and students will begin the Higher School Certificate course at the beginning of next term. I wish all Year 11 students the very best for their upcoming examinations.

Every Principal, Assistant Principal and Coordinator in Catholic schools is placed on a contract by the Catholic Education Office at the time of their employment at a school. As that contract nears completion the person is subject to a contract renewal process which involves the surveying and where appropriate the interviewing of different persons associated with the school. This year both Mr Griffiths and I will reach the end of our present contracts and thus will undertake the contract renewal process. Mr Griffiths’ contract renewal will be conducted on the 5th of September and I will undertake the process on September 16th. The results of each process will be reported in upcoming newsletters.

Finally, I wish all of our fathers a happy Fathers Day. I recognise the significant role that fathers play in their children’s lives. Let us support the fathers with prayer and encouragement for the vital role they play in our families and society. I include the following prayer for all fathers.

God our Father
In your wisdom and love you made all things.
Bless these men,
that they may be strengthened as Christian fathers.
Let the example of their faith and love shine forth
Grant that we their sons and daughters
may honour them always
with a profound spirit of respect.
We ask this prayer through Christ Our Lord
Amen

God Bless.

Mr J Lo Cascio
Principal

From the Assistant Principal

Matters of Concern

I have become very concerned at the increasing incidence of students having highly inappropriate images on their digital media devices, including sexually explicit material and footage of physical violence. At the same time, too many students are showing a lack of respect for teachers and their fellow students through the use of highly inappropriate language that is both threatening and totally unacceptable by our standards. Unfortunately for some, this latter practice is habitual and our response now must assist in forming better habits for the future. In raising these issues I acknowledge that they are not confined solely to this school as these trends are reflective of declining standards in broader society. My point, however, is that as a Catholic community, we are obliged to challenge such behaviours as we commit ourselves to the holistic development of each young person entrusted to our care.

My thinking on such matters was reinforced recently when I attended a seminar conducted by Fr Richard Leonard, a Jesuit Priest who is the director of the Australian Catholic Film Office. He challenged us to make judgments, without condemnation, about the messages presented in the full range of media to which our young people are exposed. It was not about advocating censorship but rather careful critiquing of the media in the light of Gospel values and Church teachings. In a very engaging presentation, Fr Richard spoke about the increasing desensitiveness that is apparent in relation to the use of inappropriate language and violence, particularly on the domestic front. He also gave numerous examples of how the dignity of the human person is being diminished in many forms of the media. He highlighted the message in St Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians where the issue of sexual immorality is considered and the fact that one’s body is to be used for the glory of God and that there should be care for and not worship of the body. Our culture of excesses and limited delayed gratification were other aspects addressed in the seminar. In this respect Fr Leonard reminded us of the words in the Gospel of Luke that speak to us all about the dangers of excess.

As parents and teachers, we need to be players in our media marketplace by responding to the messages that are bombarding our young people, a marketplace where minds and hearts are won and lost. Rather than responding with negativity we need to cautiously befriend the emerging media. This requires a commitment to embracing some things and rejecting others. It also necessitates us being part of the culture of the young people and not distancing ourselves from it. We need to ask the hard questions about what we as a Catholic community are doing in response to these trends in the media. In fact, if we sit back and say and
do nothing then we are actually sending the message that these inappropriate behaviours and trends are acceptable. We should not reject all aspects of the popular culture but rather become more immersed in that culture so that we are best placed to provide appropriate guidance and direction from a Christian and Catholic perspective.

So what are the implications for us as partners in the education of the young people at Good Samaritan Catholic College? Firstly, it is essential that parents know the contents of children’s mobile telephone and other digital media devices and, where necessary, to challenge unacceptable content. Secondly, all members of the school community should embrace a position of not accepting language that is degrading, violent, racist or in any other way inappropriate as judged by our standards and not by those of broader society as was stated in our last newsletter. Thirdly, we need to meet young people where they are at, commit ourselves to identifying both the positive and negative aspects of the contemporary youth culture and use this as the springboard to bring to life the Christian story. Finally, remain positive and affirmed in the knowledge that many others are also like-minded in their thinking about these important matters and they too support a hope-filled future for our young people.

Mr P Brooks, Assistant Principal

Archbishop’s Awards

Congratulations to Maryann Wright for receiving the prestigious Archbishop’s Award recently. Maryann received this award from the Archbishop Cardinal George Pell and she is congratulated on her fine accomplishments and achievements at Good Samaritan Catholic College. Thank you also to Natasha Perre for reading the citation on the day.

Thank you to the students involved in The World Youth Day Twilight session last Thursday!

Also a big thank you to Mr Lo Cascio, Mr Griffiths, Miss Najdek, Miss Raso, Mrs Tolomeo, Miss Addabbo, Mr Costin, Mrs Dadd, Sr Marj, Mr Bell, Miss Molloy and Mr Reyes for their support.

The afternoon involved sharing experiences and discussion of the effects of World Youth Day on GSCC.

World Youth Day is not over, and we are seeking ways to keep the spirit alive. Count down to Madrid 2011!

Thanks again,
Miss E Welsh
WYD08 Coordinator

Parenting Corner

THE MOST IMPORTANT GIFT THAT YOU CAN GIVE TO YOUR CHILDREN IS YOUR LOVE

With our shops and mail boxes being inundated with Father’s Day gift suggestions, I thought it might not be untimely to reflect on what it means to be A DAD. While there is no one right way to be a father, it is important to work out what is going to work for you, AND the most important gift that you can give your children is YOUR LOVE. This means getting to know them and sharing who you are as a person.

It means spending time with them and making the most of the time you spend with them.

SOME THINGS THAT ALL DADS CAN DO

• Show your sons the ways that you would like them to be when they are men. To learn this, boys need to spend time with men. They will learn much more from what you do than from what you say.
• Take your children to work with you sometimes if you can. Let them get to know how you spend your days when they are not with you.
• Spend time with your daughters. You are the first man that your daughters really know. It will help them to feel good about being female if they see that you enjoy your time with them. You are helping them to learn how to expect men to treat them when they grow up.
• Show your love in different ways if you find it hard to say you love them. It doesn’t need a lot of talking to: take your children fishing help them with their homework cheer at a school football or netball match.
• Teach your children about rules and laws. Teach by what you do, as well as what you tell them. Stick to what is right even if it annoys them.
• Expect your children to do their best and be proud of them when they do, but be proud of them even when they may fail.
• Talk about your feelings so that your children learn that it is alright for men to talk about feelings. Talk about when you feel sad or happy.
• Don’t push your children into doing things you wanted to do and missed out on. They need to live their own lives.
• Encourage your children to explore the world and find out.

Quite an agenda here for you Dads, but I’m sure you’re already on the right course. May you enjoy your special day with your family. Even if you are not a full-time Dad your children need to know that you care about them and you will look after them. God bless you in all your efforts to be good parents.

Sr Marj

Congratulations

Gold Awards

Jema Samonte Yr 9 St Catherine

Silver Awards

Danielle McPherson Yr 11 MacKillop (2 Awards)
Natalie Genova Yr 11 Chisholm
Nicole Cabello Yr 11 Merici
Laura Giancante Yr 9 Holy Spirit
Sami Rached Yr 9 Good Shepherd
Jemma Samonte Yr 9 St Catherine (2 Awards)
**Media and the Mission of The Church**

Recently, the media has been seen as being responsible for depicting and portraying images and films that run contrary to the teachings of the church. More often than not, the media, whether that being film, newspaper or magazine, glamourise many issues to the point where we believe, that what we are being told or being exposed to is considered normal. In other words, overexposure and reassurance by media forms often equates to us thinking that it is O.K to take away the dignity of other people through such things as swearing, endorsing pornography and violence. When challenged on these types of issues and others more often than not we attempt to blame the media for being responsible for blatantly using these types of images and desensitising them. Unfortunately, the media are but only a small part of the problem. Depending on how we are feeling and what we want to get from the media forums, we are solely responsible for the effect they have on society. What we take to the media is what we take away and too often what we take to the media is a corruption of who and what God wants us to be.

Galatians 5 asks us to be led by the spirit of Christ;

“When self indulgence is at work the results are obvious: fornication, gross indulgence, idolatry, feuds and jealousy, bad temper and disagreements”

We are encouraged to find the promptings of the Holy Spirit in the world. Growing up in the world without Christ, without ritual, without clear discernment, too often one becomes self obsessed, rather than building community. The Spirit provides us with gifts and it is these prompting of the Holy Spirit that can be responsible for nurturing and developing the mission of the Catholic Church. These gifts are also expressed in Galatians 5 and include love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self control. Once we appreciate and realize the strength of these promptings of the Holy Spirit, we then can take to the media forms confronting us the positives rather than the hollow ‘quick fixes’ it too often provides. When we spread the gospel values of Christ and experience the words and work of the spirit, then and only then will the mission of the church remain as the prominent media in which our society finds fulfillment.

Mr K Griffiths , Religious Education Coordinator

They were exposed to various guitar techniques and genres of music by the most influential artists of each decade, such as Elvis Presley, The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin, Deep Purple and AC/DC to name a few.

As always, it was not only the students who enjoyed this incursion but the teachers who attended as well.

It concluded with Terry performing a medley of 20 musical riffs and staff and students battled with one another to guess the most songs. I wonder who won?

Ms T Benjamin
CAPA Coordinator

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**Year 8 – Incursion**

**Hot Pies and Potato Crisps**

On the 17th June, Brett Hunt performed Australian poems and songs to year 8 as the unit we were studying was “Love Poetry” and the unit we are currently studying is “We are many, we are one.” He used the guitar and harmonica to sing humorous and emotional poems about specific events in Australian such as Waltzing Matilda, Gold Rush, Australian Indigenous dreamtime stories and legends and many more.

After his spectacular performance, he reflected on what he sang about and explained the Australian slang used in the songs, for example, fair dinkum and other expressions which were used quite frequently in days gone by.

Surely everyone’s favourite song was “I’ve been everywhere man” as our fellow Year 8 students joined in and sang all day long.

**By: Shauntae Farrugia, Nicole Cameron and Elizabeth Laham**

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**Br Gary Wilson Visit**

On Wednesday 3rd September, Br Gary Wilson visited Good Samaritan to talk to Year 12 students about some of their options for next year. One option that Br Gary discussed was for students in Year 12 to join a program called “Share the Mission”. This is a La Sallian initiative aimed at giving young people the opportunity to live in a community and engage in a program of service, social welfare and education and training for disadvantaged communities. This program lasts for 9 months. Through this, students have the opportunity to give back to communities and serve others as Good Samaritans. We thank Br Gary Wilson for his time in discussing this with Year 12.

Mr D Costin
Year 12 Coordinator

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**Year 8 Music Incursion**

**“Fretwork”**

Year 8 were recently invited to attend a music incursion in the performance block presented by the one and only ‘Terry Murray’ who has conducted this wonderful guitar incursion to Year 8 students for many years at our college.

Students were taken on a musical journey through the history of Rock and Roll music from the 1950’s through to today’s many sub-genres.
The Facts: Catholic systemic schools in NSW and government funding

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student in NSW government school (2006-2007 financial year)</th>
<th>$9548 *</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student in NSW Catholic systemic school (2007 calendar year)</td>
<td>$6994 **</td>
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<tr>
<td>Difference</td>
<td>$2554</td>
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** Source: CEC NSW Audited Accounts for 2007 as reported to the Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Systemic schools are those administered by one of the 11 Catholic Education Offices in NSW. Non-systemic, or Congregational, schools are those owned and operated by Religious Orders, and are funded according to a different formula.

Debate continues within the community on the issue of funding for government and non-government schools. This information will help to clarify how Catholic systemic schools, administered by Catholic Education Offices within NSW, are funded. You need to take into account both Federal and State funding, as well as contributions from parents, to get the full story about how governments fund schools.

In the 2005-2006 financial year, the Federal government allocated 68% of its expenditure on school education in NSW to non-government schools (including Catholic schools). The remaining 33% was allocated to government schools.* This means that Catholic schools received more Federal funds than government schools.

In the 2005-2006 financial year, the NSW State government allocated 8.4% of its education budget to non-government schools. The remaining 91.6% was allocated to government schools.* This means that government schools received more State funds than Catholic schools.

When Federal and State funding are combined, a student in a government school attracts considerably more government funding than a student in a Catholic school.

In the 2006-2007 financial year, NSW government schools received on average $9,548 per student from Federal and State governments. By contrast, NSW Catholic systemic schools received on average $6,994 per student from Federal and State governments (2007 calendar year). (Schools owned and operated by the Religious Orders are funded using a different formula.)

In other words, each NSW Catholic systemic school student received, on average, $2,554 less in government funding than a student in a government school. This difference is partly offset by fees, building levies and other charges paid by parents, as well as support from parishes.


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**Year 10 English Incursion: Filmmakers Tools**

On the 14th August, Year 10 had an English incursion about film-making and the techniques used to tell stories within these films. Linda Heys from Faraway Films presented a walkthrough of these techniques called “Filmmakers’ Tools”, explaining the process of creating a film and showing us just how important the use of editing, colours, music, props and wardrobe are to create the “look and feel” of a film. We analysed clips from great films like “Jaws”, “Legally Blonde” and “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory”, to name a few. Linda even showed us a scene from a film she had directed herself.

It was a great incursion and we are certain that everyone involved learnt something about film-making and film studies.

By: Chanel Gronowski, Jemma Young and Chantelle Monjo

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**Sign Up for A Job Day**

On Friday, August 29, twelve Year 9 and 10 students attended the Liverpool Workplace Learning Partnership event titled “Sign Up for a Job Day” at the John Edmonson Memorial Club in Liverpool. The event involved local employers and group training organisations holding interviews for a range of traineeships and apprenticeships to commence in 2009.

After writing fantastic resumes, lots of interview practice and even polishing their shoes, the boys all nervously participated in a number of job interviews for future careers. Each student performed well with all boys being asked to return for further interviews or aptitude testing. Congratulations to all involved.

Mrs J Hewitt
Year 10 Careers Teacher
REDUCING OUR SCHOOL’S CARBON FOOTPRINT
A Students Led Project

During March this year, students from Years 7-10 were invited to participate in a school based project that aimed at reducing the school’s carbon footprint as a way to reduce the school’s impact on the environment. Thirty two students volunteered to be part of a group that addressed this important issue. It was agreed from the start, this project would utilise the Problem Based Learning (PBL) approach, where students are challenged to “learn to learn,” working cooperatively in small groups to seek solutions to real problems. Reducing our college’s carbon footprint has been the goal for this project and participant students divided themselves into groups or committees, each focused on one area working to study and analyse the problem they face and find practical solutions to it. These students have been supported by a number of teachers who guide and facilitate group work and provide support where it is needed.

The Good Samaritan Carbon Footprint Group is now working on two fronts, one aimed at understanding current school practices and developing practical solutions and strategies to reduce the school’s environmental impact, and the other aimed at the school community, where highlighting this issue and suggesting how families can reduce their environmental impact by changing their day to day practices. We believe that we can turn this school into a totally carbon neutral school. This project is on-going and will continue even after current members have left Good Samaritan. With your support, Good Samaritan Carbon Footprint Group will pave the way for continuous positive environmental actions and attitudes within the school and homes into the future.

Examination Nerves Support Group

Did exam nerves get the better of you during your last set of exams? Would you like a place to come and talk about how to make the next exams less stressful? This is an informal support group to talk over problems and solutions to exam stress. This will hopefully put you in touch with others who are feeling the same way and offer you some support outside of the support group.

If you would like to be a part of this group, please give your name to Mr Costin or the School Counsellor. This group will be organised for Term 4.

Mrs K Rushbrook, School Counsellor

Year 7 – Incursion – Techno Bully

Last term Year 7 was given the opportunity to watch a live play called “Techno Bully”. The play showed the students a bit about the acting side of English as well as how technologies such as the phone and the internet can be used to bully.

Techno Bully was a play about a girl called Cathy who was going to a new high school. She starts participating in after-school activities such as dance classes where she meets a boy, Glenn, who uses fake identities over the net to get away from the intimidation between his peers and himself. Glenn soon finds the perfect opportunity to use their friendship as a way to get photos to post on the internet.

The play was great, because it made us laugh but at the same time helped us realise the problems techno bully can cause. It helped us understand techno bullying from the victim’s point of view, and the trouble they will get into through what they’ve done.

We all had a good laugh from the play but we did learn a lot about it and the moral was very clear. We would highly recommend it to 12-15 year olds.

(By: Cassandra Monjo and Rochelle Abbate)

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Arrive Alive Incursion The Challenging Attitudes to Risk (CAR) program is a road safety partnership between the MAA and 5 NRL football teams - the Manly Sea Eagles, Newcastle Knights, Penrith Panthers, St George Dragons and Wests Tigers. First-grade players visit schools with the local NSW Police Youth Liaison Officer (YLO) to talk about keeping safe on the roads, the consequences of risk taking and how you can Arrive Alive!
**Records — Athletics Carnival 2008**

Congratulations to the following students who broke College records at the Athletics Carnival on Monday 25th August

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<th>Girls</th>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Kobey Martin</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Anthony Pellegrini</td>
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<td>Alyssa Cook</td>
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**Netball Report**

On Tuesday 19th August, three teams represented Good Samaritan at the CCC Netball Championships held at Jamison Park, Penrith. It was an icy 3 degree start to the day, eventually warming up with each team playing a challenging 8 rounds of netball. The 12-13 years team coached by Miss Najdek played extremely well, which was a credit to their fighting spirit and commitment to the team. The 14-15 years coached by Mrs Hewitt had a successful day resulting in an impressive second position. The open girls coached by Mrs Cook played a very competitive competition, which ended with a well earned equal third place. A big congratulations to all teams and their coaches for their continuous effort throughout the day.

(Miss M Najdek and Rose Pipicella)

**Rugby League Report**

**Game 5 v Thomas Hassall**

Game five of the MISA Rugby League Competition was successful for the GCC Rugby League team, winning 46-0. Many of the players were in top form for the match, being major contributors to the total score. John Kennedy crossed over to score four tries while Anthony Pellegrini raced over to score a great individual try. Branden Vella and Peter Andres also played swell, getting in and tackling hard for the team. Peter also scored the final try of the match. Overall it was a very convincing win which pleased the coaching staff.

**Game 6 v Thomas Hassall**

Following game five, the boys were looking forward to their game against Thomas Hassall Anglican College. They wanted to carry their form into this game, and they certainly did winning 52-4. John Kennedy was once again Man of the Match scoring countless tries. Anthony Pellegrini definitely showed his goal kicking skills converting the tries that were scored under the goal posts. This win puts the team outright 1st by a fair way, which will now almost guarantee them a spot in the final. The team was very pleased with their win and are looking to stay focused in their remaining games this season.

(John Fahmi, GCC League Reporter)
Carbon Footprint
A Students Led Project

Year 8 Incursion
Hot Pies & Potato

An Evening with Year 12

Arrive Alive Incursion

Archbishop’s Award 2008
Maryann Wright GSCC Recipient

DATES TO REMEMBER

Mon 8th—Thurs 18th September
Year 11 Exams

Friday 12th September
Yr 7 Hepatitis B
Yr 7—10 HPV

Friday 19th September
GOOD SAMARITAN DAY

Wednesday 24th September
Year 12 Farewell Breakfast & Assembly
7pm Graduation Mass

Friday 26th September
TERM 3 ENDS
&
Year 12 Graduation Dinner

Netball Team