Dear Parents and Friends of the College

Last Friday, the staff of the college was involved in our final Staff Development Day for the year. The focus of the day was on programming, compliance and incorporating literacy and numeracy strategies into programs. The day proved to be very productive and will ensure that the literacy and numeracy needs highlighted in the recent NAPLAN tests will be addressed across the curriculum. This will provide maximum exposure to strategies and allow students to develop their skills across subjects.

At our assembly last week, I told students the story of a young builder who had been asked to build the most beautiful house by his employer. The builder continually took short cuts and used inferior material to make the job easier, and to repay his employer, whom he felt did not appreciate his efforts. At the end of construction the only person who recognised the poor quality of the house was the young builder himself. He knew what he was capable of building and chose to produce an inferior product. At the end of construction the employer presented the young builder with the keys to the house saying that the house was a reward for his hard work. He then realized that the only person that he cheated was himself.

Students were reminded that the house in the story is the future they are building, and the young builder represents each of them. If they put every effort into all that they do they will build a future that will be rewarding. They are the only person who really knows if what they produce is their best. If they do not make the effort then they will build a future less than what they deserve. It is my hope that every student makes a commitment to do their best all the time. This commitment is relevant at all times, that is at the beginning, in the middle and at the end of each year.

Last week I had the pleasure of presenting a number of Gold Awards to students at our assembly. I would like to reiterate the fact that these awards are a reflection of hard work and dedication of the students who receive them. These awards were especially significant as three of the recipients have received a Gold Award previously. Congratulations to Luen Samonte on receiving her third Gold Award, to Bruno Romeo and Erika Brocklehurst on receipt of their second Gold Award and Nicole Cabello and Danielle McPherson on receiving their first Gold Awards.

Throughout this week, students in Year 7—9 have been involved in their end of year exams and assessment tasks. I congratulate the many students who have been preparing well for these exams. I also remind students, that although exams have been completed, there is still a great deal of learning to take place as we approach the end of this year.

Tonight, the community will come together to celebrate ten years of Good Samaritan Catholic College at the previously advertised dinner dance. I thank all staff, parents, ex-staff and ex-students who will be joining us for this special occasion.

Tomorrow, and on Sunday, we celebrate All Saints Day and All Souls Day respectively. I include the following prayer as a reflection of these significant days.
**From the Principal**

**Dear God**

Help us to look at the example of the saints who have gone before us. May we reflect on their faith and be encouraged by their bravery and determination. When we feel weak help us to gain strength from the example of the saints so we can respond to your call. We pray also for our friends and family who have died, may their souls rest in peace. For ourselves we ask that we find comfort in the family and friends we have here on earth. May our faith in the love you have for each of us be a source of strength on our journey.

Amen

God Bless

Mr J Lo Cascio
Principal

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**Parenting Corner**

**Dear Parents**

In a recent Parenting Tip (No 10) published in the last newsletter, Parents and Guardians were asked to focus on building virtues. Surely this is not too much to ask of Catholic families in the nurturing of their children. The responsibility of the Catholic school is to support you in this task.

There is no question that we all want our children to be happy and to be good. Home and school unite in striving to lead our children to know what is good, to desire what is good and always to do good.

*Such direction leads to true happiness and a fulfilled life.*

One of the greatest gifts we can give our children is a strong faith which becomes the foundation for living a good life...coupled with strength of character.

The young person with a carefully nurtured sense of independence which leads to self belief and self confidence often has the strength of character (willpower) to resist the pressures of a society which is losing its sense of values. When this is based on a faith life, the God who loves us unconditionally comes into the equation.

As parents we should place the building of virtue in our children as a high priority. And don’t forget to pray for them—OFTEN.

Kind regards.

Br Colin

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**Silver Awards**

The following students were recently presented with Silver Awards at a college assembly.

YEAR 7
- Tiffany McPherson

YEAR 8
- Joseph Ragusa
- Lily Macapinlac

YEAR 9
- Erika Brocklehurst (2)
- Bruno Romeo (2)
- Michelle Mijatovic

*Congratulations to the above students on attaining these awards!!*

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**SCHOOL FEES**

As we approach the end of the year, parents are reminded that fees are now due.

The college is aware that the international financial crisis may place significant strain on families. Parents and Carers are reminded that no Catholic family will miss out on a Catholic education due to financial hardship.

If any family is having difficulty meeting fee commitments, please contact Mr Archer to make an appointment to discuss the issue with Mr Lo Cascio.

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**Gold Award Recipients**

Congratulations to Luen Samonte on receiving her third Gold Award, to Bruno Romeo and Erika Brocklehurst on receipt of their second Gold Award and Nicole Cabello and Danielle McPherson on receiving their first Gold Awards.

*Congratulations!!*
Outreach Program

On Tuesday, the 23rd of September, all the graduating Year 12 students accompanied by the Year 11 Pastoral Care representatives, travelled out to different places in the community for the Outreach Program. Each of the six houses travelled to a different destination to offer up their time and service to where it was needed.

The Year 12 Polding class, as well as Daniel Arcuri and myself went to Hammond Care, a nursing home in Hammondville. As soon as we walked through the door and down to the corridors, we were confronted by the sadness of the condition some of the residents were in. However, it was great to see the difference in the residents’ moods as we spent the day, simply providing them some company. For some, this meant feeding the residents their lunch, others played numerous games of Uno with the residents. For one resident, Joe, the idea of company was greatly appreciated and cherished. Joe is a war veteran whose vehicle was blown up, leaving him in his current condition since he was 21 years old. The fact that a little of our time put smiles on the residents faces, made the day worth while.

As part of the Outreach program, the MacKillop house decided to help run the Mainsbridge Special Needs School’s Walk-a-thon. Unfortunately due to the rain, it was postponed until Thursday the 25th of September. However, Mr Cloran’s Year 11 PDHPE class were willing to sacrifice their time to help run the day. The children were of all ages, each differing in their special needs and disabilities. Their Walk-a-thon, although it consisted of walking laps around a tree on a marked path, still brought smiles and feelings of enjoyment to each of their faces. To us, a Walk-a-thon is like a chore, a compulsory school event, but for these children, it is one of the most exciting and fun filled days.

The day was an eye-opener for all involved, as the children, being physically able to achieve, gained a sense of accomplishment which was something special for us to witness.

Written by Jade O’Brien

Year 12 - 2009 Retreat

On the 15th of October, the students of Year 12 2009 along with fourteen school teachers, departed our normal school routine, and set off for a three day retreat to the Royal National Park.

When we arrived at the camp destination, it brought back memories from our first camp we had all attended in Year 7. The year group was divided into two groups staying at the camp sites, Rathane and Deer Park. We arrived with excitement and adrenaline, as we were unsure of what the next three days had in store for all of us.

After we had all settled into our cabins, we started the day off with exciting activities that included throwing eggs and water balloons at one another, which did not end all that well. We played games such as the Amazing Race, where students had to attach themselves to one another, blindfold each other, and race around the camp site finding clues, in order to win the race.

At the end of the day, each house group created their own themed house banner, which represented the students for our journey ahead in Year 12. We ended the day with the two groups joining together in a very emotional and spiritual reconciliation which brought many tears and stirred mixed emotions within all of us.

After a long night of laughter and no sleep, we gathered together for the second day of exciting activities. Throughout the day we participated in many thrilling activities in order to develop our trust in one another. This involved students and teachers being blindfolded and barefoot walking on a path of thumbsticks and being directed by other students, to avoid stepping on the thumbsticks.

That night, the students were very excited to see all of our teachers hosting and serving our dinner to us, for the first time. The night then went on with an unforgettable powerpoint presentation full of past photos and memories, a disco and a final mass, which brought all of us together in prayer.

On the last day, with all of our developed emotions and memories of the past couple of days, we showed our renewed relationships towards one another through affirmation, which were created throughout the retreat and a final gathering to conclude our memorable stay at Deer Park and Rathane.

On behalf of Year 12, we would like to give a special thanks to our Year Coordinator Mr Cloran, for all the hard efforts and work that were put into making this retreat a most memorable experience. We would also like to thank Mr Griffiths and Mrs Dadd, for their efforts and all the teachers that attended, and to the students for making it a great start to our final year.

Written by Diana Macri and Anthony Salintri

Social Justice Excursion—Indigenous Issues

On the 13th October a number of students from Yrs 8-11 attended the regional social justice day at Mt St Joseph, Milperra. The focus of the day was Indigenous Issues. There were over 200 students from various colleges around the southern region. The day involved an insightful look into the challenges that surround issues regarding the local indigenous community. We were very fortunate on the day to hear from a number of distinguished aboriginal speakers who enlightened us on their personal experiences and the broader issues facing their community. The day also allowed us to interact with students from other catholic schools in discussions and interactive workshops.

Our school contributed through running a workshop and designing and painting a banner which was used on the day and is now on display in the Catholic Education Office. The excursion ended with the opportunity to plan and suggest initiatives for our school.

We would like to thank Mr Lo Casicco for supporting this excursion and the teachers who work with us in the area of Social Justice—Mrs Sayadi, Mr Georgiou, Mrs Marcelliennus and Sr Marj. Our meetings are every Wednesday at L3 during lunch, so come and join us!

The Social Justice Team
### Canteen Roster

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### Dates to Remember

- **Thursday 16th Oct to 13th November**
  - HSC Examinations
  - Wed 5th—Fri 7th November
    - Year 9 Camp
  - Mon 10th—Wed 12th November
    - Year 10 School Certificate
  - Mon 17th—Fri 28th November
    - Yr 12 Work Placements
  - Fri 28 November
    - Year 10 Graduation Mass

### If you enjoyed World Youth Day then come along to a night to remember!

- **What:** Worship in the City
- **When:** Friday 7th November
- **Time:** 7:00pm - 8:30pm
- **Where:** St. Mary’s Cathedral (In the crypt, which is behind the Cathedral)

*All Saint’s Girls, Liverpool will be performing a drama item on the night!*