Dear Parents and Friends of the College,

Recently there have been a number of events in which parents have been involved in the college. Our swimming carnival was certainly a memorable event and was truly reflective of the spirit present at the college. This was evident through student involvement and the passion displayed in the cheers. The number of parents who attended the carnival to support their children, although small, was most pleasing.

On Monday 3rd March the college organised a presentation by NetAlert. This was a most enlightening presentation and I know that the parents present left the meeting both informed and a little concerned.

Finally, last Monday evening the college held the first Parent Consultation Committee meeting for 2008. The meeting was attended by 11 parents representing each of the year groups at the college. The aim of the meeting was to familiarise parents with the 2008 Annual Plan, to focus on directions in 2008 and to consider some of the challenges ahead this year. The challenges included such things as World Youth Day, the college fundraising Walkathon, the new NAPLAN assessments in Years 7 & 9 and finally, ways in which parents can become more involved in the life of the college.

I certainly appreciate the support of parents in the above activities and continue to encourage parents to seek means by which they can become involved in college life. By doing so each parent is visibly supporting their sons or daughters as they continue their education.

Last week staff and students of the college were enthusiastically involved in the World Mathematics competition and Clean Up Australia Day. It was certainly gratifying to witness the passion and commitment of students as they undertook the challenges of these activities. I sincerely hope that this enthusiasm is transferred to the studies of individuals involved.

Over the last week students of the college have been involved in a number of competitions. Last Friday I had the pleasure of attending the Clancy Art Prize at the Australian Catholic University. The college had entries submitted by Bruno Romeo, Frankie Siciliano and Julie Labuguen. The students’ works were displayed at the exhibition and drew many positive comments. On the same evening 7 students (Melanie Canosa, Daniel Kamalaneseon, Justin Jarrett, Maddison McPherson, Natasha Ishac, Anthony El-Zakham and Elizabeth Camilleri) were involved in the CSDA Public Speaking Competition at St Gregory’s Campbelltown. Once again our students performed admirably with 2 students (Daniel Kamalaneseon and Natasha Ishac) progressing to the next round.

Each of the students involved in these activities can be truly proud of their efforts and each was a wonderful ambassador for the college. I thank the teachers involved in all of the above activities for their willingness to provide extra support to students beyond the classroom.

Over the last year, discussions have taken place with the Catholic Education Office in relation to the construction of a Chapel and Hall for Good Samaritan. Today, the first step was taken when a number of architects met with the College Executive to promote their Company’s expertise in the design of these buildings. Once the
Awards
Presented at the College Assembly on Thursday 13th March. Congratulations to all recipients.

Silver Award
Year 9
Rebecca Arcuri
Mark Bawalan
Grace Lichaa

Year 8
Adriana Herrera (3)
Jasmine Phimprachanh
Carina Bilotta

Congratulations

Congratulations!! Kemps Creek Martial Arts have kindly donated a $430 Gift Certificate to Viliami Kulu of Year 8 to acknowledge potential in Martial Arts. Congratulations Vili.

Well done!!

Mr J Lo Cascio
Principal

From the Assistant Principal

Valuable Items
College policy is that students do not unnecessarily bring valuable items to school. This includes items such as iPods and other electronic devices. In the event that students bring such items to school they do so at their own risk and, if discovered, the items will be confiscated for a period of time. It would be appreciated if parents could reinforce this message with their sons and daughters so as to avoid any possible situation where their property is at risk of being stolen or confiscated.

Staff Development Day
Parents are advised that Monday 28th April, the first day of second term, will be a staff development day. Accordingly, students are not required to attend school on this day. Should any parents require supervision for their son or daughter, you are asked to notify the College in writing before the end of this term. The focus of the staff development day will be on curriculum differentiation.

Fundraising
This year the College will be raising funds for a number of purposes. One major focus will be to support the participation of students in World Youth Day. A key event that will be held this year is a walkathon during the latter part of second term. There may also be other fundraising events. If any parents are interested in joining a fundraising committee could they please make contact with me at the College.

Mr P Brooks
Assistant Principal

Transport
The School Tcard System will be decommissioned from the close of business on Tuesday 18th March 2008. From Wednesday 19th March 2008, students will only be required to produce their printed bus pass to be eligible for free school travel on private buses under the School Student Transport Scheme. Students are reminded that:
- They will need their printed bus pass for free travel from the morning of Wednesday 19th March
- They should ensure they have applied for a 2008 bus pass if they have not done so already.
To enable Tcards to be disposed of in an environmentally friendly and secure manner, it would be appreciated if students could return Tcards to the boxes provided at the school office.

God Bless

Mr P Brooks
Assistant Principal

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Mr P Brooks
Assistant Principal
WYD08 is our World Youth Day

HomeStay Program

Over 160,000 pilgrims will be descending on Sydney during WYD and we need your help. The HomeStay Program creates a wonderful and perhaps unique opportunity for you to show some Australian hospitality to pilgrims.

Returning pilgrims from Cologne and previous WYDs reported staying with host families as one of the highlights of the pilgrimage and the experience had a lasting effect on them.

HomeStay has already been launched in parishes and this is a way in which families of school students can be directly involved in WYD08.

Pilgrims will need a sleeping space (bed, sofa, floor) and breakfast from 14th to 21st July. Pilgrims will be between 18 and 35.

The possibility of sharing stories about other cities, countries and parishes is just one of the benefits you and your family could receive. This is your chance to experience the benefits of an “exchange” for just one week.

Your support is vital to the success of this program and making WYD the catalyst for the 20 year program for the renewal of the church in Sydney and Australia.

If you have any questions about the HomeStay Program, or any WYD matters please call the College HomeStay Representative Gail Gerrish on Tele: 9607 8019 or 0400 501 066.

St Charbel’s Parish are hosting
WYD08 Journey of the Cross & Icon

Good Friday 21st March 2008

Venues:
Roberts Park – Waterloo Road, Greenacre
St Charbel’s Church – 142 Highclere Avenue, Punchbowl

9.30 am Arrival of WYD08 Cross & Icon at Roberts Park
9.45 am Stations of the Cross presented by St Charbel’s students
10.30 am Liturgy & Adoration of the Holy Cross presided by His Eminence George Cardinal Pell, Archbishop of Sydney
11.45 am Cross & Icon to lead Procession to St Charbel’s Church
12.30 pm Liturgy concludes – followed by kissing of the Holy Cross

Message from Br Colin

Dear Parents

Greetings to you all. After two long years in Pakistan it is a great joy to return to Good Samaritan.

While away I missed the friendliness of the parents and the openness of the children at Good Samaritan. It is so good to be back amongst you.

I appreciated the financial support offered at times by groups of students at the College. To continue to run eleven schools, an orphanage for boys and a network of support for drug addicts, without government assistance was, to say the least, a challenge.

The poverty of most of the schools was a bit overwhelming after working in such a beautiful environment as we experience here, as I did for 7 years.

I’m back and will be available to assist the students at Good Samaritan on Mondays & Tuesdays and hopefully will have continual contact with you as I support you in your wonderful role as parents.

God Bless

Br Colin

World Maths Day

On Wednesday 5th March GSCC students had the opportunity to participate in World Maths Day! This was a worldwide event where students and teachers from over 200 countries raced against each other to become the ultimate “Mathelete”.

Students were required to compete in 60 second online battles to determine how many mathematical questions they could answer. The day was a great success as it allowed our students to develop their maths skills in a fun and interactive way. Around the world over 182,000,000 questions were answered. This was a world record, which our students were a part of creating.

We would like to congratulate Alexander De Falco, Anthony Alvaro and Andrew Estrada for answering the most questions during the competition from GSCC and Mark Bawalan, Alexander De Falco and Anthony Alvaro for answering the most questions in a one minute period. Well done MAFNRDS!

GSCC Maths Teachers
The Visual Art department has chosen a variety of paintings and drawings made by talented year 7 and 8 students to exhibit. Year 7 have been exploring different concepts used in portraiture. They are also investigating the main elements in art and have produced some fantastic drawings using tone, proportion and lines. They will continue to develop a range of portraits this term.

Year 8 have been experimenting with ‘organic forms in their environment’ throughout the term. Students have used leaves and shells, faces and patterns as inspiration for their art making. This week the students will begin to make their organic ceramic vessels. We look forward to seeing these creations unfold.

Artworks of the month are currently on display in the library. Thank you.

Mrs Giusti
NAPLAN Testing

This week information about the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) has been sent home to parents of students in Year 7 and Year 9. NAPLAN is the acronym that is being used to refer to a series of tests that will assess student’s skills in numeracy, reading, writing, spelling, punctuation and grammar. A website has been established to provide teachers, students and parents with additional information www.naplan.edu.au

NAPLAN replaces the Basic Skills Test in Years 3 & 5 as well as the ELLA and SNAP testing in Year 7. The national tests will assess student achievement in literacy and numeracy in much the same way as they have been done in the past. Students will be familiar with the test formats and the type of questions they have to answer from Basic Skills Tests and the ELLA and SNAP testing in Year 7. The main difference is that all students at Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in schools across Australia will be doing the same tests on the same days in May 2008. The previous testing was only undertaken in New South Wales schools.

National tests will provide information on how students are progressing against national benchmarks in each area and to support improvements in teaching and learning within our college and across all Australian schools.

We are making a concerted effort to ensure our students are ready and comfortable in undertaking the NAPLAN tests this year. Students in Year 7 and Year 9 in particular have been examining sample questions and practising skills in readiness for the tests. Tests will take place Week 3 of Term 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Tuesday 13 May</th>
<th>Wednesday 14 May</th>
<th>Thursday 15 May</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>Language Conventions 45 minutes Writing 40 minutes</td>
<td>Reading 65 minutes</td>
<td>Numeracy 40 minutes x 2 (80 minutes total) Non-calculator test to be scheduled first, followed by calculator allowed test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>Language Conventions 45 minutes Writing 40 minutes</td>
<td>Reading 65 minutes</td>
<td>Numeracy 40 minutes x 2 (80 minutes total) Non-calculator test to be scheduled first, followed by calculator allowed test.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Language Conventions incorporates spelling, grammar and punctuation.
** Numeracy incorporates Number, Space, Algebra, Function and Pattern, Space, Measurement, Chance and Data.

I strongly urge you to become familiar with the types of questions and tasks that will be asked of your sons and daughters in this testing. Parents, students and teachers can view sample questions from each test form at this weblink: http://www.naplan.edu.au/test_samples/test_samples.html

We wish all of our students well in their preparation for NAPLAN.

Miss Molloy

Career News

Cadetships
Professional Cadetships Australia is a program that seeks to match cadetship candidates with business cadetships in various companies such as BNP Paribas, QBE, Westpac and Zurich. The 2008 program launch is at 7.00 p.m. on Friday, 28th March at Sydney Harbour Marriott, 30 Pitt Street, Sydney. Interested Year 12 students are invited to attend. Visit www.businesscadetships.com.au, registration is not required.

Gap Year with Flying Fish
A growing trend is Australia is for graduating students to defer university for a year to be able to travel and work overseas – this is the gap year. Students report that their gap year allows them to develop confidence and independence before committing to three or four years of further study. Flying Fish offers programs that include professional qualifications in windsurfing, yachting, snow sports, surfing and diving. They also offer programs in Canadian and Australian resorts. An information evening will be held on Wednesday, March 19th from 6 p.m. Telephone Flying Fish on 9976 6714 or visit the website at www.flyingfishonlinee.com for more details.

Nursing website
The Royal College of Nursing has launched a website with information for anyone interested in a career in nursing or midwifery. Visit www.nurseinfo.com.au to find out more.

Years 10 and 12 at the National Careers & Employment Expo
On Friday, May 9th, all students from Years 10 and 12 will travel to Darling Harbour Exhibition Centre to visit the 2008 National Careers & Employment Expo. Hundreds of stalls from universities, colleges, group training companies, government agencies and recruitment firms, both Australian and overseas will be available for students to gain first hand information, leading to important decisions later in the year. Parents and students can visit a virtual version of the expo and see the exhibitor list by visiting www.eocexpo.com.au

Mr Berry  Careers Adviser
Year 7 Geography Excursion

On Monday 3rd March 2008 Year 7 went on a Geography excursion to Centennial Parklands. Three groups were involved, the 7.1, 7.3 and 7.5 Geography classes. The purpose of the day was to experience and carry out aspects of field work, as it was part of our subject. Three activities were held on the day, an observation walk, biological sampling and investigation of abiotic features.

On the observation walk we had to sketch Fly Casting Pond onto our map. We added many of the details that we got to see including the water pipes that flowed water in and out of the pond, the viewing platforms, the aquatic plants and the wetland areas. We also saw the Gross Pollutant Trap where the water was being separated from any solid waste that had come through the drains. Before the water entered the ponds it had to travel through the macrophytes. The macrophytes were small water plants that helped the filtration process by absorbing and stopping any extra pollution from getting to the ponds.

We then moved on to the biological sampling in Willow Pond. We had to use dip nets to scoop up water bugs so that they could be put in our tray for observing. As we observed the bugs we caught, we had to match them up to the water bug chart. Once we had discovered what type of water bug they were we could then classify them. We classified them into categories of sensitive and tolerant. By finding out how sensitive or tolerant they were, we would be able to know the water quality. As we grouped the water bugs and recorded the results we found that many of the bugs were very sensitive, meaning they could only survive in clean water. So this showed that the water quality in Willow Pond was quite clean and had little pollution.

We then moved on to our last activity, the biotic features. Here we had to test the soil, air and water near the wetland area. We firstly tested the water to find its pH level, the turbidity and the temperature. With a beaker full of the pond water, we put in a thermometer and the pH strip. After 3 minutes we removed them from the water. After we matched up the colours on the pH strip and read the thermometer, we recorded our results. We had to then test the air for its temperature, wind speed and humidity. We used a wet bulb thermometer to find the temperature and humidity and another device to calculate the wind speed. We recorded our results and moved on to the soil, where we had to find the pH level and the texture. By using different chemicals to make colours in the soil, we found the pH level. We then had to feel the soil texture and record how we thought it felt.

We then all headed back to our main meeting area and packed. We got our bags and all the students were loaded onto the buses for the trip back to school.

After this exciting, hands on excursion, I had experienced so much and learnt lots about field work and what it is all about. It was a real memorable day and it surely taught all of us many useful things.

Josephine Losurdo, Year 7

Creative/Essay Writing Competition

A Creative/Essay writing competition is open to all students at the college. There are two categories: for Year 7—9 students the topic is “Future Directions” and for Year 10—12 students the topic “Explain the importance of the 1967 Referendum and how it shaped Aboriginal Australia today”. Entries must be received by Friday 21st June 2008. If anyone is interested in the competition please see Ms Brocklehurst for application forms.

Healthy Breakfast Program

During Week 5 in PC classes, all students were surveyed regarding their breakfast habits. From these results 74% of students indicated they did eat breakfast, with 26% not eating breakfast. Lack of time was the common reason given for not being able to eat breakfast in the morning. As a result, Good Samaritan will now give students the opportunity to purchase breakfast in the morning from the canteen. Breakfast will be sold on Thursdays and Fridays from 7.45am till 8.10am.

Thank you to all Year 11 students who have volunteered their time to help with the Healthy Breakfast Program.

Miss Najdek
Our Parish Easter Mass Times

**St Anthony’s—Austral**
- **Holy Thursday**: 20th March, 7.30pm
- **Good Friday**: 21st March, 10.00am Stations of the Cross, 3.00pm Commemoration of the Passion
- **Holy Saturday**: 22nd March, 6.30pm Vigil
- **Easter Sunday**: 23rd March, 7.30am, 9.00am

**Good Shepherd—Hoxton Park**
- **Holy Thursday**: 20th March, 7.30pm
- **Good Friday**: 21st March, 11.00am Stations of the Cross, 3.00pm Commemoration of the Passion
- **Holy Saturday**: 22nd March, 7.30pm Vigil
- **Easter Sunday**: 23rd March, 10.00am, 5.30pm

**Holy Spirit—Carnes Hill**
- **Holy Thursday**: 20th March, 7.30pm
- **Good Friday**: 21st March, 11.00am Stations of the Cross, 3.00pm Commemoration of the Passion
- **Holy Saturday**: 22nd March, 7.30pm Vigil
- **Easter Sunday**: 23rd March, 8.00am, 10.00am, 5.30pm

**St Francis Xavier—Lurnea**
- **Holy Thursday**: 20th March, 7.30pm
- **Good Friday**: 21st March, 10.00am Stations of the Cross, 3.00pm Commemoration of the Passion
- **Holy Saturday**: 22nd March, 7.00pm Vigil
- **Easter Sunday**: 23rd March, 8.00am, 9.30am

**St Therese—Sadlier**
- **Holy Thursday**: 20th March, 7.30pm
- **Good Friday**: 21st March, 3.00pm Commemoration of the Passion
- **Holy Saturday**: 22nd March, 5.45pm Vigil
- **Easter Sunday**: 23rd March, 9.00am

**UNIFORM SHOP HOURS**
The Uniform Shop will be open on the following days and times:
- **Monday to Thurs**: 7.30 am to 8.20am
- **Tuesday 25th Mar**: 12pm to 3.45 pm
- **Tuesday 8th April**: 12pm to 3.45pm

**CANTEEN ROSTER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY 17.03.08</th>
<th>TUESDAY 18.03.08</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY 19.03.08</th>
<th>THURSDAY 20.03.08</th>
<th>FRIDAY 21.03.08</th>
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<tr>
<td>N. Carver</td>
<td>D. Ingle</td>
<td>L. La Rosa</td>
<td>G. Gerrish</td>
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<td></td>
<td>A. Morozoff</td>
<td>D. Hadjisocratic</td>
<td>A. Demasi</td>
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<td></td>
<td>D. Poschl</td>
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<th>THURSDAY 27.03.08</th>
<th>FRIDAY 28.03.08</th>
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<td>L. La Rosa</td>
<td>L. Dwarte</td>
<td>L. Bakhos</td>
<td>J. Vartuli</td>
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<td>M. Keir</td>
<td>M. Fernandez</td>
<td>E. Gallulo</td>
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<td>C. Kairuz</td>
<td>S. Yako</td>
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<td>G. Cownie</td>
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