Dear Parents and Friends of the College

Next week Catholic schools across the state will celebrate Catholic Schools Week. This week highlights Catholic Schools, many of which will be undertaking activities which promote the theme “Learning in Action”. During the week our college will also be undertaking a number of activities which promote this theme. One significant project is the “Carbon reduction” activity organised by Mr Dinkha. This activity will have a cross curricular focus on environmental protection and sustainability and will highlight active and relevant learning. I thank all teachers and students involved in this initiative and recognise that this will have a positive result for students’ care for the environment.

Catholic Schools Week also ushers in the enrolment period for 2009. Our college, however, will begin our enrolment period in May. The college will conduct an Open Day on Saturday May 3rd from 10 am until 2 pm. All prospective students and parents are encouraged to attend for part of the day. There will be an overview of the college given at 10.30 and again at 12.30 so that new students and parents will be given a greater insight into our school.

Over the last two years the college has not undertaken major fundraising for the school. The main reason is that the previous fundraising was supposed to contribute to a shade cloth structure which took some time to be approved. I considered it to be unfair to continue fundraising when the previous funds had not been used for the nominated purpose. I stress that all fundraising is undertaken in good faith and I was reluctant to ask for more funds when the previous funds had not been used. Now that the previous funds have been exhausted, there are a number of projects which are in need of financial support. This year the college will have a dual focus for our fundraising. Firstly, there is a great need for financial support for pilgrims who are going to World Youth Day. As a Catholic school we have made a significant commitment to supporting other members of our Church and our fundraising will support this priority. Secondly, there is a need to continue to support the ICT infrastructure and hardware across the college. As ICT is more fully incorporated into the curriculum, the demand for increased and improved infrastructure has intensified. The extra funds from fundraising will allow the college to meet the increased demand. Our main fundraising venture in 2008 will be the college Walkathon which will be conducted on 20th June.

At our recent college assembly, I spoke to students of the importance of keeping Good Samaritan a safe environment. I emphasized to students that the college does not tolerate violence, weapons, gang activity or students in possession of any illegal substances (especially illegal drugs). Any student who involves themselves in these activities will be placing their position at Good Samaritan in jeopardy. I emphasise that the college will be a safe environment for all students and it is every student’s responsibility to ensure that this is the case at all times.

I remind everyone that the World Youth Day Cross and Icon will be welcomed to our local area on the evening of April 8 and morning of April 9 at Freeman Catholic
Parent / Teacher / Student Interviews
The College is conducting parent / teacher / student pastoral interviews on Tuesday, 8th April from 3.20pm until 7.30pm. At this time an Interim Report will be distributed to all students in Years 7 – 11. All students are requested to book a time for their interview with their pastoral teacher. It is an expectation that all families are represented at these interviews to discuss the overall progress of their children. These interviews also provide an opportunity for parents / carers to share with the pastoral teacher any pertinent information relevant to their child. In order to accommodate all families it is necessary to limit interviews to a maximum of ten minutes. If a longer interview is required a subsequent appointment time will need to be arranged.

Schools Summit
The Federal Government has invited all schools throughout Australia to consider holding a Schools Summit in the lead up to the national 2020 Summit that will be held during April. The aim of the summit within the school context is to provide students with an opportunity to examine and reflect upon a range of future challenges for the nation and to consider innovative solutions. Areas for consideration include education and training, health, sustainability, the digital economy and indigenous communities. Students are given the opportunity to consider these key areas and to provide some input to the national summit through an online submission. Any students interested in participating in these summit at Good Samaritan are asked to notify their intention in writing to Mr Brooks by Friday 4th April.

Responsible and Honest Students
Recently at the College several expensive pieces of electronic equipment and some reasonably large sums of money have been handed in to the office by students who have found these items in the playground. In most instances the owners have been quickly located and they have been grateful for the honesty displayed by their fellow students. I wish to take this opportunity to sincerely congratulate and thank any student who has acted in this very caring and responsible manner by making the right decision. Whilst it is true that sometimes items that are lost are not returned to their owner, there have been many examples recently, and no doubt in the past, where the better outcome has been evident. This is indeed very pleasing.

Mr P Brooks
Assistant Principal

World Youth Day

Journey of the Cross and Icon in our local region
On 8th April the World Youth Day Cross and Icon will be coming to Freeman Catholic College. This exciting event will be a memorable experience in World Youth Day history.

Arrival - 5:30pm 8th April
Departure - 6:30am 9th April

Location: Eastern Courtyard Freeman Catholic College

Bring along your family and friends and blankets to sit on!

Each school community will have a short period of time to spend with the Cross. This will involve receiving the Cross from another school, a short ceremony, time for veneration of the Cross. Good Samaritan Catholic College will receive the Cross at 12am and will pass the Cross to the next school community at 12.30am.

We ask that Good Samaritan Community members arrive at Freeman Catholic College at least 30 minutes prior the ceremony at 11:30pm for a briefing of the structure of the ceremony.

Bring along your family and friends and blankets to sit on for a once in a life time opportunity!
It’s really great to have Br Colin back with us at Good Samaritan. As he was one of the first staff group he certainly knows many families and has had a very positive impact on the growth of the College. Hopefully Brother Colin and I will make a good “combo” to help with your adolescents.

I was so impressed by our students at the Lenten/Easter Liturgies. They were prayerful, attentive and responded to the very powerful presentation of the weeks leading up to Jesus’ Death and Resurrection.

I often marvel at their goodness considering they are surrounded by so much that is negative in films, T.V., magazines, and the computer world. As they spend a lot of time in “cyber space” it must be difficult for them to distinguish between the two worlds and that is why they need parameters and boundaries to keep them POSITIVE and WHOLESOME.

The majority of our students are going well and as parents you must take a lot of the credit for this as the school can only do so much. May they aim to conclude the term on a POSITIVE note and live out the EASTER message of our Assembly:

Because Jesus lives I will find strength.

God bless you in your loving efforts to be the best parents.

Sr Marj

After-School Homework Help

After-School Homework Help is held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoon in the library.

Teachers kindly volunteer their time to assist students with their schoolwork. Please note that the hours for After-School Homework Help for Years 7 to 10 are between 3.00pm and 4.00pm. At four o’clock students should be picked up by their parents.

Students must sign the After-School Homework Help log as they enter the library. If students leave before 4pm they must sign out. Once a student leaves the library they must either leave the school or wait for their parents in the pick-up bay near the college office.

Ms P. Skuja

Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week (CSW) 2008 will be held in Week 10, Term 1 (30 March to 4 April) and, for the first time, will involve the communities of all 613 Catholic primary and secondary schools across NSW.

Schools across the state are preparing for the week-long celebration that aims to raise awareness of the strength and distinctiveness of Catholic schools. Activities happening around the state will include: open days, community breakfasts, demonstrations of learning programs, interactive classes for the public, online learning exchanges, workshops, computer courses, presentations by past students, debates, competitions and sporting activities.

The theme for CSW 2008 will again be “Learning in Action”. It will provide an opportunity for Catholic schools to showcase what is done in our schools.

Sisters of Charity Outreach

Sisters of Charity Outreach is a volunteer based, compassionate diverse service offering hospitality, holistic care and a human presence through various programs.

Outreach believes in giving its volunteers every opportunity to use their skills appropriately. Areas of focus include visitations, transportation, fundraising and other forms of practical assistance.

We are interested in hearing from PROSPECTIVE VOLUNTEERS who are
- Committed to supporting people
- Friendly and compassionate
- Feel comfortable within a Christian environment

A training program is essential and consists of 6 core units and 1 elective unit in the chosen service (7 weeks). There will be a volunteer training program commencing at Miller for those interested in becoming a volunteer. Applications or enquiries Phone 9822 5980 or 8382 6430 or for further information—www.outreach.stvincents.com.au

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS

The Uniform Shop will be open on the following days and times:

Monday to Thursday 7.30 am to 8.20am
Tuesday 8th April 12pm to 3.45pm
Looking to be inspired by design, our Year 9, 10 and 11 visual designers went to the Powerhouse Museum on Thursday 6th March. The students view of the exhibition ‘Inspired by Design’, which is a permanent exhibition within the museum. This exhibition charts Australian design history over the past 300 years, seeing students literally walking back through time. Starting at the present ‘Going Global: Design and the Marketplace’ and moving through spaces representing key points in design history, students came to rest in the ‘Age of Enlightenment’ exhibition, representing design from the early 18th century.

Some reflections from our students:

“Today was fun. We really got to see what the designs were like in the past, some of them were really interesting and even modern, which surprised me.” (Carmina & Anna)

“Today was an eye opener to what the design world is about. I look forward to incorporating past styles and traditions in my design portfolio and my body of work.” (Andrea)

“We learnt how the world and world events influence design, as well as about different designers and what influenced their works.” (Maddie & Bec)

“We enjoyed looking at all the designs through history. We had loads of fun and we’d love to do it again. P.S. We are free next week.” (Emily & Lana)

As is reflected in just a few of the comments we gathered from students a truly enjoyable and certainly worthwhile educational experience.

On Wednesday 5th March, the Year 9 students were privileged to be involved in the Bell Shakespeare production “Love’s Magic” which included scenes from the plays Midsummer Night’s Dream and Romeo and Juliet. This explored the concepts of love, power, magic and death. The actors were exceptional as they were able to connect and engage the student audience relating the plays in such a way that they skilfully conveyed the key concepts of the plays to the students. At the beginning of the production, the actors introduced themselves as Garth, Ray, Beth and Claire.

The actors captivated the audience through the use of humour and explained excerpts of the play, followed by a performance and an entertaining analysis of the plot. Certain excerpts of Romeo and Juliet were performed so that the audience could gain a better understanding of the main events that occurred in the story line, and also to familiarise the audience with the language used in Elizabethan times in England. Furthermore, the actors portrayed the play Midsummer Night’s Dream so that the audience would comprehend the difficult ideas of the play. At the end of the production the students were able to identify the similarities and distinguish the differences of both plays. Students and teachers were also given the opportunity to ask questions regarding the play and gain an insight into the techniques which actors tried to incorporate into their performances.

Overall the Bell Shakespeare Production was a huge success amongst the students in Year 9. With anticipation we look forward to the next Bell Shakespeare production at Good Samaritan.

On Friday 9th May, 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

To help parents with practical advice about:
- Understanding of the new laws for L and P licence holders.
- Supervising learner drivers.
- Completing the Learner Driver Log Book.
- Understanding the benefits of supervised on-road driving experience.

The RTA and the local council have set up free two hour workshops for parents and supervisors of learner drivers.

The next workshop in this area will be held:

**DATE & TIME** - 30 April 2008 6pm—8pm
**VENUE** - Liverpool City Council’s Administration Centre, 1 Hoxton Park Road, Liverpool
**BOOKINGS (essential)** - 9821 8835
**Art Express**

On Thursday 6th March, the two Year 12 Visual Art classes accompanied by our teachers, Mrs Doran and Ms Nash, travelled to the Art Gallery of NSW to view the Art Express exhibition. Art Express showcased the works of 2007 HSC Visual Arts candidates whose Body of Work was considered to be of the highest standard.

The artworks entered from our school were by Frankie Siciliano, Bruno Romeo and myself. I was very happy to have the chance to view other artworks produced by students from various Catholic schools. I enjoyed the opportunity to appreciate artworks that expressed the faith and spirituality of students of my own age.

Thank you to Miss Nash for giving us the opportunity to be involved in such an inspiring event.

Elisa Gatto  
Year 12 Student

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**Pi Day**

On Friday 14th March or 3.14 as the US would refer to this date, the Good Samaritan Catholic College community celebrated “pi” day. Pi is a special number which has infinitely many decimal places. To 2 decimal places the number is referred to as 3.14. Students were provided with the opportunity to recite “pi” to as many decimal places as they could. The current world record is 100,000 decimal places. We would like to congratulate Luen Samonte, Joshua Bugeja and Quinnie Kuang who recited pi to 220,165 and 133 decimal places respectively. We would also like to thank all students for their participation in this exciting event.

GSCC Maths Teachers  
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**Encore**

On Monday 10th March, Year 11 and 12 Music students attended ENCORE at the Sydney Opera House.

Upon arrival, we lunched together in Circular Quay and prepared ourselves for the overwhelming crowds of students from schools from all over New South Wales.

As everybody was seated the lights dimmed and an extravagant composition was performed by the Student Composer and her ensemble. Following this, a variety of students played various genres of music ranging from abstract experimental to classical, jazz and rock.

At 4.15pm the performance was still going, however we had to leave quietly in order to return back to school at the appropriate time.

I would like to thank the wonderful and awe-inspiring music teachers, Mrs Popovic and Miss Benjamin, as well as the students who made the day great.

Vincent Piccolo  
Year 11 Student

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**Canteen Help**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Students</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY 31 MARCH</td>
<td>E. Hobby, J. Colley</td>
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<tr>
<td>TUESDAY 1 APRIL</td>
<td>D. Beazley, M. Alsafar</td>
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<td>WEDNESDAY 2 APRIL</td>
<td>G. Bartolo, L. La Rosa</td>
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<td>THURSDAY 3 APRIL</td>
<td>L. Vella, C. Smith, S. Gioiosa</td>
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<td>B. Boustany, L. Losurdo, J. Gardner</td>
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<td>MONDAY 7 APRIL</td>
<td>T. Kristen, L. Pacchiarotta</td>
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<tr>
<td>TUESDAY 8 APRIL</td>
<td>D. Toro, A. Waga, D. Madani</td>
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<td>WEDNESDAY 9 APRIL</td>
<td>M. Campisi, J. Roccisano, N. Pulitano</td>
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<tr>
<td>THURSDAY 10 APRIL</td>
<td>S. Lichaa, C. Byrne</td>
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<td>FRIDAY 11 APRIL</td>
<td>C. Mallia, N. D’Amore, M Cleary</td>
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30th March—4th April
Catholic Schools Week

31st March—2nd April
Yr 7 Camp

31st March—11th April
Yr 12 Exams

8th April
Interim Reports/Parent Teacher/Student Evening

8th April
WYD Cross and Icon—All night vigil

11th April
Term 1 concludes

28th April
Term 2 commences—Staff Development Day

29th April
Students return to school (Day 2)

Holy Thursday

EASTER PRAYER

Father,

We share in the light of your glory
Through your Son, the light of the world.
Make this Easter light inflame us with new hope
Purify our minds by this Easter celebration
And bring us one day to the feast of eternal light.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen