Good Samaritan welcomes the World Youth Day Cross
Dear Parents and Friends of the College

In the early hours of last Wednesday morning our college had the wonderful opportunity to welcome the World Youth Day Cross and Icon to our region. This took place at Freeman Catholic College at 12 am. Our students and teachers provided a moving prayer service as we received the World Youth Day Cross. The ceremony provided the chance for members of our community to declare a commitment to World Youth Day. I thank all those involved for sharing in this memorable experience. I also remind everyone that there are numerous opportunities to be involved in World Youth Day as we approach July. I especially encourage families to become involved in the Homestay Program to accommodate Pilgrims as they visit our country in a practical expression of their faith.

Last Week I had the opportunity to visit Year 7 at the Great Aussie Bush Camp located near Tea Gardens. It was most pleasing to interact with these students and to witness the wonderful sense of community that has developed amongst the newest members of our community. I was also impressed by the maturity and cooperation displayed by the students. It is always gratifying to visit a camp and be told by the organisers what a wonderful group of young men and women attend our college, which was the case on this occasion. Not only are these students a credit to our college, they are also a credit to their parents, who should be very proud of them. I thank the students for their cooperation and thank the teachers involved for generously giving up their time to provide this experience for the students.

On Tuesday 31 March the college representative teams competed in the Northern Zone finals of the MISA sports competition. I congratulate all teams involved in the finals and especially acknowledge the Girls Volleyball (Yrs 10,11,12), Boys’ Volleyball (Yrs 10,11 12) and Girls’ Basketball ( Yr9 & 10) Teams, which were victorious. This week the interzone finals were to take place but unfortunately this was postponed due to bad weather. However, whether or not the representative teams won their respective competitions, they were certainly commendable ambassadors for our college. I thank those students and the teachers involved for their performances and commitment to these competitions throughout the term.

Last Tuesday afternoon and evening, the college conducted interviews for parents of Years 7 to 11 students. The purpose of these interviews is to give parents an overall impression of how their children are performing after one term. If parents have any concerns it is essential these are addressed early and are followed up with individual subject teachers. This can be done through an interview or phone contact. I encourage parents to act early, as this will avoid problems later in the year.

Over the last two weeks, Year 12 students have been undertaking their half yearly exams. These exams should be used as a tool to inform students how they can improve, as much as informing them about their performance to date. The exams will be followed by reports and a parent student teacher interview evening in early Term 2.

Last week the college once again hosted students from Year 6 at Good Shepherd. These students were able to experience lessons in English, Mathematics, Science and PDHPE. This gave them an opportunity to gain a greater understanding of the operation of high school as they approach their final year at primary school. The visits to the college complement the K-12 transition program which is being undertaken by both schools at present. I thank all teachers involved for their enthusiasm and commitment to the program.

This week we farewell Mr Sultana who will leave the college. Mr Sultana has been taking the place of Mrs Naraj who makes a welcome return at the beginning of Term 2.

I ask everyone in our community to keep those who are unwell in your prayers. I especially ask you to pray for Frankie Siciliano who is recovering from major surgery and for Ms. Williamson who is continuing her battle with illness.

Finally, as I reflect on what has occurred at the college, I am thankful for so many who give so much to our college.

God Bless

Mr J Lo Cascio
Principal

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**Meditation**

Come and learn new ways to meditate, relax and de-stress your life…every Wednesday during lunchtime in the prayer room. All welcome.

Mrs K Rushbrook, School Counsellor
Student Safety and Welfare

Parents who drop off their children at the College will have noticed the recent addition of some fencing along the perimeter of sections of the driveway into the school. This installation should contribute to improved student safety and ensure that students entering and exiting the college through the main entrance do so using the marked crossing at the set of lights located at the front of the school. The drop off point in the morning continues to be in the bus bay area. Parents are not to stop in the roundabout area to set down children as this is a "no stopping" zone and this action impedes traffic flow and places students at risk of being injured by buses and cars moving through this area. Parents are also reminded that cars are only permitted to enter the site after 3.10 pm in the afternoon to collect students from the bus bay area. Once the final bus has left in the afternoon any students remaining behind waiting to be collected by car are required to wait outside the main office area within the school grounds.

Silver Awards

Presented at the College Assembly on Friday 11th April

Congratulations!!

- Chloe Callus (Year 9)
- Gabriela Macias (Year 9)
- Alyssa Cook (Year 9)
- Carina Bilotta (Year 8)

Mr P Brooks
Assistant Principal
On Sunday May 11 of this year, Catholics in Australia will recognise two changes in the way we celebrate Mass. The Holy See has approved an English translation of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal which guides the way we celebrate the Eucharist and accompanies the Third Latin Edition of the Missale Romanum.

The First Change relates to Posture
At present when the priest invites the people to pray at the Preparation of the Gifts, we remain seated until we have responded “May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands to the praise and glory of His name for our good and the good of all His church” and then we stand for the prayer over the gifts.

From May 11, the laity will be asked to stand when the priest invites you to pray; “pray brethren, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God the Almighty Father.

The laity will stand and say “May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands to the praise and glory of His name for our good and the good of all His church” The reason we are asked to stand reflects something of our relationship with God and it also reminds us that we are about to enter into the great prayer called the Eucharistic Prayer.

The Second Change Relates to a Gesture
The communion procession is an important ritual act in the celebration of the Mass. We come to receive the body and blood of Christ and become unified as the Catholic Church. The change to the procession is as follows; “when approaching to receive Holy Communion, the faithful bow in reverence of the mystery that they are about to receive”. This can be done as the person in front of you is receiving the Eucharist. Above all the communion procession should be reverent, ordered and never rushed.

Mr K Griffiths
Religious Education Coordinator

Dear Parents
Holidays “YIPPEE”. Isn’t it great to have your kids at home; no uniforms to prepare, no cut lunches, no early rises to get them to school on time and all the other hassles of the normal school term. However, having them all at home together for longer stretches of time can bring other issues. Michael Grose, the child psychologist, whom I often quote, refers to them as SIBLING STRAINS – ring a bell?? Count yourself fortunate if this does not affect you, but if it does, it is quite normal.

Michael writes that a certain amount of SIBLING RIVALRY is beneficial for children. Trying to do better than a sibling is how many children, particularly boys, extend themselves.

Children in each birth position tend to develop their own coping skills. FIRST BORNS often revert to power, which they regard as their birth right!! Many YOUNGEST children learn that charm and cuteness works far better than assertion and power when it comes to getting their way. SECOND BORNS need a more complex set of skills to assist them to deal with more able first borns and their manipulative younger siblings. They are often considered more resilient and mentally tougher than children in other positions, although more likely to be the initiators of sibling rivalry!

Sibling rivalry generally requires children to develop a thick skin, which is helpful for negotiating difficulties at school. The inevitable squabbles that accompany sibling rivalry require children to stand up for themselves in the rough and tumble world of the schoolyard. However, not all sibling rivalry is healthy and needs to be closely monitored by parents. Some siblings’ behaviour towards each other can be harmful and have negative long-term affects.

In the long run, I think these words of the great writer Charles Dickens may help your holiday issues if you have them –

“Have a heart that never hardens, a temper that never fires, and a touch that never hurts”

Enjoy you holidays!

Sr Marj

Congratulations to Kayla Salopek who recently competed at the Australian 2km cycling championship pursuit in Under 15 year age group. Kayla was successful in winning a Silver medal.
**UNIFORM SHOP HOURS—TERM 2**

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

| Monday to Thursday | 7.30 am to 8.20 am |
| Tuesday 29th April | 12 noon to 3.45 pm |
| Tuesday 13th May | 12 noon to 3.45 pm |
| Tuesday 27th May | 12 noon to 3.45 pm |
| Tuesday 10th June | 12 noon to 3.45 pm |
| Tuesday 24th June | 12 noon to 3.45 pm |

**CLOSED EVERY FRIDAY**

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**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 Telephone 9607 8019 or 0400 501 066.

**Use of personal laptops**

The use of personal laptops at the College is currently under review. If students are permitted to use a laptop this will only take place following the completion of the “Student Personal Computer Contract” that sets out the terms and conditions of usage. Other students who require computer access should use the computers in the library.

**Special Events Team Term 1**

Term 1 has seen some very significant events. This includes the College Opening School Mass, school assemblies and various liturgies. It is great to see students getting involved in making these events a great success. On behalf of the College community, I would like to thank the following students for giving up their time to help with the staging of these events -

- Kristy Walker
- Kobey Martin
- Olivia Strzemkowski
- Bryce Wilson
- Paul Tacca

**Mr J Reyes**

IT Coordinator

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**Technology News**

**MONDAY 28 APRIL**

Staff Development Day

**TUESDAY 29 APRIL**

D. Beazley, T. Cox, M Alsafar

**WEDNESDAY 30 APRIL**

M. Campisi, J. Roccisano

**THURSDAY 1 MAY**

E. Gallullo, L. Bakhos

**FRIDAY 2 MAY**

D. Caruana, D. Segatto, R. Romeo

**MONDAY 5 MAY**

E. Hobby, J. Colley

**TUESDAY 6 MAY**

A. Dawood, D. Toro, D. Madani

**WEDNESDAY 7 MAY**

R. Criniti, G. Baretta

**THURSDAY 8 MAY**

G. Gerrish, A. Demasi, R. Origlia

**FRIDAY 9 MAY**

R. Parker, Q. Lan Hoang, A. Pipicella
Yr 11 Mt Kosciusko expedition

On Thursday 27th March, the two year 11 SLR classes went on a very strenuous expedition to climb Mt Kosciusko, which is the highest point in Australia.

Our camp started on a very early and cold morning where we arrived at school before the sun rose. Little did we know this was nothing compared to the temperatures we were about to encounter in Thredbo.

Our first stop was at AIS (Australian Institute of Sport) in Canberra where we were privileged to go on a tour of the institute. We saw where the Australian elite athletes train and the various equipment they use.

We then got on our double decker coach and before we knew it we were checking into our accommodation for the night in Berridale (in the middle of nowhere).

After we ate our roast dinner prepared by the hotel staff, we gathered in a common room where we took part in many activities such as playing twister, karaoke, pool and watching the footy show and the gripping moments of Sally on Home and Away. We then all turned in for an early night anticipating what tomorrow might hold.

The next day our trek started in Thredbo where we took a 15 minute chairlift, up a mountain. It was quite terrifying for some, especially when it suddenly stopped. When we got off the temperature suddenly dropped to minus 2 degrees.

We started walking and 500 meters into the hike we wanted to desperately turn back, we had no idea what we had got ourselves into. However, we stayed strong, didn’t give up and continued for another 15.5 kms as the thought of having McDonalds at the end was our goal.

The six and a half hour walk was very exhausting and muscle wrenching, however, reaching the top and looking at the view was very satisfying and a great achievement.

Over the many hours of only looking at plain, dry bush land, many people resorted to their own imaginations to keep themselves amused. There were many songs produced including the smash hit “Aint no mountain high enough, to keep us from getting to maccas.”

We would like to thank all the teachers for giving up their own time, and taking us on such an enjoyable and memorable trip. Although the trip was very extensive and tiring it was a once in a lifetime experience and we all had an awesome time. WE ALL CAME OUT FROST-BITE FREE…. SUPRISINGLY

By Monique Barnes, Jade O’Brien, Alex Boulatsarkos and Melissa Messina.

“C” is 4 camp

C4 was the camp theme. “C” is also for challenge, change, commitment and collaborative cool fun. Year 7 ensured those around them had ‘smiles on their dials.’ With unselfish and cooperative attitudes everybody had a great time. Year 7 will receive their bookmarks they created on camp with their Bibles at a liturgy. As a charity fund raiser Year 7 who donate $3 will receive a DVD memento of the camp (these images are not to be published in anyway) Would we do it again? Of course we would. Everybody on camp, and at home, has grown due to the experience. Year 7 are growing up and they all displayed skills which should give everyone confidence that they will continue to mature into self-assured young ladies and gentlemen. Thank you to a magic group of teachers who provided excellent 24/7 care for Year 7. Parents should be very proud of the achievements of their son’s/daughter’s and peers.

Mr S Gray
Year 7 Coordinator

ARTWORKS OF THE MONTH

This month we have selected some outstanding portrait drawings by year 7 students who have demonstrated some great technical skills and creativity. Students were assessed on their ability to produce a portrait using three different styles, Naturalistic, Expressive and ‘The Good Samaritan Portrait Prize’ which is an imitation of the annual Archibald prize competition currently showing at the Art Gallery of NSW.

We would like to highly commend the following students who have demonstrated enormous skills and talent in the area of portraiture -

Congratulations to Emmanueal Pethyon, Natasha Serrano and Andrew Pezzuto.

Art works are currently on display at the Library.

Mrs Giusti, Visual Arts
The article which featured in the last newsletter was written by Yr 9 students Erika Brocklehurst, Genevieve Fonti, Bruno Romeo and Jema Samonte.
Welcoming of World Youth Day Cross

DATES TO REMEMBER

28th April
Term 2 commences—Staff Development Day

29th April
Students return to school (Day 2)

2nd May
NSW CCC Swimming Carnival

3rd May
Year 7 Information / Open Day 10am—2pm

8th May
School Photos

9th May
Yr 10 & 12 Careers Excursion

9th May
Southern Sydney Cross Country

12th May
Year 7-10 HPV Yr 7 Chicken Pox vaccination

13th-15th May
NAPLAN—National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy Yrs 7 & 9