Dear Parents and Friends of the college

Last week I had the pleasure of witnessing Ashleigh Pontifex of Year 11 compete in the Quota Youth of the Year competition. This competition was conducted at the Liverpool City Council Chambers. Although not the eventual winner, Ashleigh’s performance was admirable and she gave our whole community something of which to be proud. That pride was further complimented by Year 12 student Maryann Wright, the 2007 Quota Youth of the Year. Maryann passed the award on to this year’s winner. I congratulate Ashleigh and Maryann for their continual willingness to represent our college in such a commendable manner. I also thank Ms Wright and Mr Cloran for supporting the students.

This Sunday, the Liverpool Catholic Club will conduct their Annual Mass and Luncheon. This celebration has significance for our college each year, as the Board of Directors presents the Dux from the previous year with financial support to help them with their post school study. This Sunday, Dino Romeo will be presented with a cheque to help him with his HECS fees and associated costs. This is one of the many ways the club continually supports the college and I thank them once again for their continued generosity.

Last week a bank of portable showers was delivered to the college in preparation for the arrival of World Youth Day pilgrims in July. At present we are expecting between 350 and 500 pilgrims to be staying at the college in the week leading up to World Youth Day, on July 20. There will be much to do at the college leading up to World Youth Day and any support would be appreciated. One area where help is definitely needed is the serving of breakfast each day. Any parents and students who are able to assist in this area are asked to complete the return slip included in this newsletter and return it to the college office as soon as possible.

Students can also be involved in supporting pilgrims through involvement in the college walkathon. Part of the funds will be used to support the three sponsored pilgrims from Wee Wak in Papua New Guinea, as well as pilgrims from Good Samaritan. As our Church enters this very exciting time, it is wonderful to witness the enthusiasm which is very evident among our community. We will continue to offer support in as many ways as possible as the final date nears.

This week the enrolment committee at the college will begin to interview all applicants for Year 7 in 2009. This process will take about two weeks, and applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application at the end of term.

Next Friday, the college staff will be attending a staff retreat, with a focus on “The Role of the Teacher in the Catholic School”. This is a very important aspect of teaching in a Catholic school, and it is essential that teachers have a common understanding of this important ministry in the Church. I remind everyone that Friday June 6, is a pupil free day.

Last Monday Evening the college
From the Principal...continued

conducted the Year 12 Parent/Teacher Student Interviews. These interviews provide a great opportunity for parents to ensure that they have an understanding of their children’s performance, as well as how they can improve. I cannot stress enough, that all parents and students are expected to attend these evenings. The Parent/Teacher/Student Evenings for Years 7—10 will be conducted at the end of this term, and Year 11 will be conducted in Week 2 of Term 3.

Over the last two weeks, the students in Years 7 to 11 have been undertaking their mid year examinations. During this time, I have been most impressed by the diligent approach of some students, however, others leave a little to be desired. It is essential that all students thoroughly prepare for exams by developing a well planned study program. This will ensure that students achieve results which reflect their ability and potential in each subject. I ask parents to encourage good study habits, at every opportunity, as this will enable students to be fully prepared for exams.

Last Monday the College recognised National Reconciliation Week through our whole school prayer. National Reconciliation Week affords all of us the opportunity to reflect on the past, and to build a brighter future for our Australian community, especially in relation to our indigenous people. It is a challenge to all of us, as citizens of this wonderful country, to ensure that we strive to build positive relationships within our community.

Last week the college also conducted a prayer session for the victims of the disasters in Burma and China. This was followed by fundraising, the proceeds of which will be given to Caritas to support the peoples of Burma and China. As a Catholic community, we should all keep these people in our prayers and thank our God for all the good fortune we experience.

God Bless

Mr J Lo Cascio
Principal

World Youth Day is fast approaching only 46 days to go

A prayer for World Youth Day 2008:

God our Father, we consecrate to you the World Youth Day in Sydney in 2008. Guide and protect Pope Benedict and all the leaders of the Church. Inspire and direct all those leading and planning the World Youth Day. Unite and protect them by your fatherly care. Amen.

From the Assistant Principal

Bus Transport

Parents are reminded that the private bus services that operate each day, allowing students to travel to and from school, are only to be used for this purpose. The two bus company operators have contacted the College to draw attention to the conditions of carriage, pointing out that the service provided is not available or intended to convey passengers to destinations other than their home. Some students have been opting to ride on certain buses to allow them to reach places of employment or to allow them to go shopping. These convenience journeys are outside the scope of operations of school bus travel. There have been some instances recently where bus 304 has been unable to convey all passengers to their intended destination due to a significantly increased volume of patronage. This has most often occurred on Thursday and Friday afternoons. Students may only catch the bus indicated on their pass and they are advised that they will not be permitted to catch alternative buses. Should parents require any clarification or further information regarding the bus to be taken by their son or daughter, then a telephone call to the local bus operator is recommended.

Transport – Behaviour

All students have been reminded of the need to behave appropriately whilst travelling to and from school on bus transport. Although many students can be commended for their excellent behaviour, there have been some recent incidents on school buses that have resulted in the College being contacted about poor behaviour by a small number of students. In several cases, members of the public have made complaints directly to the school. It is unfair and totally unjust for any student to behave poorly whilst under the authority of the school, and in their uniform, since it reflects poorly on all members of the school community. Students not complying with the reasonable standards of behaviour expected of them, whilst on school buses, may have their passes withdrawn and be restricted from travelling on buses for a period of time.

Silver Awards

The following students received a Silver Award at the College Assembly held last week.

Year 8
Jessica Calarco
Connie Pipicella
Jason Patto
Annelise Fegatilli

Year 12
Kelly-Anne Velnic

Mr P Brooks
Dear Parents and Friends

Recently I celebrated a significant birthday and many of you have been celebrating your motherhood. These are times of great blessing, but they are also times of reflection and reminiscences.

Co-incidentally I came across a lovely passage that spoke about celebrating everyday.

“Make everyday a day to celebrate life and be thankful. Look to every day as a day of new beginnings, opening your heart to positive hope and unlimited potential”.

The passage goes on to reflect on WAYS of doing this.

• Taking time for ourselves
• Appreciating those who have enriched our lives
• Being grateful for choices we have made
• Accepting our mistakes but learning from them
• Appreciating the natural beauty that surrounds us
• Avoiding negative feelings

The passage concludes:

“Make every day special. Own it, enjoy it. Bask in the glory of life. Appreciate the gift of your own life”.

Nobody suggests that these things are easy, but what wonderful role models you would be for your children and for all those around you if you could present such an image. Then perhaps some of the abundant negativity that surrounds our children through the media and sometimes their peers, could be nullified.

Big challenge for “big” people. May the Lord bless you and assist you in that challenge.

Kindest regards

Br Colin

Staff Development Day

Parents are reminded that Friday 6th June, will be a Staff Development Day. The planned activities will have their focus on staff spirituality. **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 as a matter of high priority. As the Staff Development Day will be held offsite, any student requiring supervision may need to attend an alternative venue for the day.

ST THERESE SCHOOL SADLEIR—MILLER ENROLMENTS 2009

Currently receiving enrolment applications for Kindergarten 2009. Vacancies also exist in other classes. Enrolment forms can be collected from the school office. Enrolment criteria apply. For more information phone the school on 9607 7879 between 8.30am and 4.00pm. School features include quality Literacy and Numeracy programs, Vietnamese liaison, advanced technology, specialised Visual Arts program. Principal Mrs Jean McInerney
Good Samaritan has enjoyed a bright start to the debating season this year. Each of the three rounds, against All Saints’ Boys, MacKillop College and Freeman College has seen more victories than defeats for the squads. Of these teams, the Senior and Year 8 teams have been undefeated; Years 7 and 9 have had two victories, while Year 10 has enjoyed one. This is due in part to the excellent efforts of the coaches – Miss Terkuc, Ms. Fegatilli, Mr. Dominish, Mrs. Celea, Mr. Bradbury and Mrs. De Paoli. The season rolls on, with rounds against Thomas Hassall and All Saints’ Girls in coming weeks. If all goes to plan, we should see a good number of our teams in the finals, which will be held at Good Samaritan on Friday, June 27.

Mr. M. O’Sullivan
Debating Co-ordinator

27 May—3 June 2008 marks National Reconciliation Week to celebrate the rich culture and history of the first Australians. It’s the ideal time for all of us to join the reconciliation conversation and to think about how we can continue to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people’s ongoing contribution to our nation.

Last Monday, in the spirit of reconciliation and recognition of Prime Minister Mr Rudd’s official apology to the Aboriginal people, the college prayed as a community while one of our Year 12 Indigenous students, Nicholas Jovanovic, played the didgeridoo.

Mr S Berry
Careers Adviser
Parenting Tips
Over the next few weeks “Parenting Tips Ten Priorities” will be included in the newsletter. The following is Tip No. 1

Be united with your spouse
Unity between spouses makes parenting more likely to succeed. “There is nothing better in this world than that man and wife should be of one mind in the house”. (Homer The Odyssey)

“The best thing a husband can do for his children is to love their mother”. (Ray Guarendi Back to the Family)
- Parental consistency. Reach decisions you are both happy with.
- Put your spouse on a pedestal in your children’s eyes; back up each other’s decisions.
- Don’t argue in front of kids; make up in their presence if you argue in their presence. Listen. Be the first to apologise.
- Be honest to yourself about your own temperament and faults. Kids see through hypocrisy. Admire the strengths of your spouse; don’t get fixated on faults.
- Remember: domestic discord leads to depression in children.

Can you Help? 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.

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 or our HomeStay Representative Gail Gerrish on Telephone 9607 8019 or 0400 501 066.

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WORLD YOUTH DAY BREAKFAST VOLUNTEER SHEET

I would like to volunteer to help serve breakfast at Good Samaritan during World Youth Day Week.

NAME : ...........................................................

CHILD’S NAME : ........................................... CLASS : ..............................

DAY/S I AM AVAILABLE TO HELP :

JULY 15 ☐ 16 ☐ 17 ☐ 18 ☐ 19 ☐ 21 ☐

(Please tick the days you can help)

Please return this tear-off slip to the College Office as soon as possible.
GOOD SAMARITAN CATHOLIC COLLEGE
HINCHINBROOK
401 Hoxton Park Road, Hinchinbrook NSW 2168 - PO Box 444, Hoxton Park NSW 2171
Phone: (02) 9825 9955 - Fax: (02) 9825 9966
Email: admin@goodsamaritan.nsw.edu.au
Web: www.goodsamaritan.nsw.edu.au

2nd / 3rd / 4th June
Yr 7 2009 Enrolment interviews

6th June
Pupil Free Day—Staff Spirituality Day

9th June
Queen’s Birthday Holiday

13th June
NSWCCC Cross Country

16th—20th June
Year 11 Work Placements

20th June
School Walkathon

1st / 3rd / 4th July
Yr 7-10 Parent/Teacher/Student interviews

4th July
TERM 2 ENDS

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CANTEEN HELP

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ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH LIVERPOOL is having their 116th Annual Debutante’s Ball on Saturday 23 August 2008.

All young ladies aged 15 and over are invited to do their debut. If you are interested in doing your debut on this day, please contact Lisa Cattarin direct on 0418 430 284 (anytime) OR after hours on 9606 5007 for registration or just general enquiries.

We welcome all young ladies together with their male partner and families and we guarantee that this event will be a beautiful and memorable experience for you and your families.

Please chat with your friends and family as soon as possible as we will close bookings at the end of this month.

Lisa Cattarin
President

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UNIFORM SHOP HOURS—TERM 2
Opening Days & Hours
Every Monday to Thursday
7.30 am to 8.20 am
Also open on
Tuesday 10th June 12 noon to 3.45pm
Tuesday 24th June 12 noon to 3.45pm
CLOSED EVERY FRIDAY

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Caritas BBQ for the victims of Burma and China