Dear Parents and Friends of the Community

Recently the college played host to Year 5 students from Good Shepherd Primary School. The visit provided students with an opportunity to gain an understanding of high school by participating in lessons taught on the day. The Year 5 students were able to experience English, Italian and Music, as taught in our college. They also gained insight into the machinations of secondary school as they moved from class to class during the morning. The day provided a positive experience for students, as well as teachers, who were able to establish initial links with future students of Good Samaritan Catholic College. I thank Miss Molloy and Miss Maisano (from Good Shepherd) for their organization of the day and acknowledge Ms Fegatilli, Mrs Popovic and Ms Kennedy for the delivery of the lessons.

As this semester drew to a close, so too did a number of competitions in which our students were involved. On Friday June 26 our Senior and Year 9 debating teams competed in the finals of the WSCCDA debating competition. The Year 9 team were successful in winning their debate while the Senior Team were narrowly defeated. Both teams displayed impressive debating skills and can be proud of their efforts.

Last week witnessed more finals, with the MISA sporting competitions drawing to a close. Good Samaritan had teams in the grand finals of Years 7, 8, and 9/10 Netball, Senior Girls Touch, Year 9 and Senior Boys Soccer. The Years 7 and 9/10 Netball teams were successful in winning their grand finals and taking the respective honours for 2009. I congratulate each of the teams in the finals on their performances and acknowledge their coaches for their commitment to each of their teams. I also take this opportunity to congratulate and thank all representative students and coaches for their willingness to excel in representative sports at every opportunity.

Friday 10 July 2009

This week July 3 to 10, is Naidoc Week. Naidoc Week provides an opportunity to celebrate the contribution of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders to various aspects of history and Australian life. The college acknowledged this noteworthy week at our final assembly. Local Elders took part in the assembly and were involved with Years 7 and 8 following the formalities to give greater insights into Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders. The theme of Naidoc Week in 2009 is “Honouring our Elders Nurturing our Youth”. This phrase is quite significant in today’s times and carries a pertinent message for all people in our community, not simply for our Aboriginal community. It is my hope that all students take note of and reflect on what this theme means to them.

Throughout this year, the college has adopted its own theme “Be Witness To The Call”. This theme calls each of us to action and to bear witness to the call issued to us from various sources. These sources may be our God, our families, our local community and even our nation. At this point in our year, it is opportune to reflect on the theme by asking ourselves “Where have I been witness to the call?” The challenge for our students is to consider each aspect of their lives; the academic, the spiritual and the social and to consider how they have attempted to be the best they can in each of those areas. As we approach semester two, the challenge to be witness to the call is offered to every member of our community. The holidays provide a good opportunity for everyone to reflect on this challenge.

As we approach the end of the semester, a number of exams are scheduled and we are looking forward to a successful conclusion of this year.
of teachers will be leaving the college as teachers return from their leave. I thank Mrs Repovac, Miss Hammoud, Miss Romeo and Miss Carrabs for their contributions to the college while teachers have been on leave.

Last week, Mrs Anastasio informed me that she would not be returning to the college from her leave. I take this opportunity to thank her for her contribution to Good Samaritan since 2002.

Finally I thank Mr Grech, Ms Walker and Mr Wheeler for work they have done this term in acting positions while teachers have been on leave.

I wish everyone a safe and restful holiday and look forward to an enthusiastic return to semester two.

God Bless.

Mr J Lo Cascio
Principal

From the Assistant Principal

Silver Awards
Congratulations to the following students who were presented with the Silver Award at today’s assembly.

Jema Samonte x 2
Brydie Cooper
Rose Pipicella
Lisa Petro

Rowena Barriera X 2
Brandon Cook
Nicole Cabello
Adam Cosgrove

Return date for Term 3
Students and parents are reminded that Term 3 begins on Monday 27th July. This is a normal school day commencing with Day 1 of the timetable cycle. All students are expected to be in attendance on this day and wearing full school winter uniform.

Year 11 Parent/ Teacher/ Student interviews
Parents of students in Year 11 will have the opportunity to meet with teachers on Wednesday, 29th July. Each student has received a letter and a sheet to facilitate the booking of interview times. It is an expectation that at least one parent from each family attend these interviews with students. Students are expected to attend in full uniform.

School Day Commencement
A reminder to parents and students that all students are required to be at the College by the first warning bell at 8.25am in the morning. There have been an increasing number of students regularly late in the morning and are missing vital information. I would ask that parents and students ensure that they are at college with enough time to attend morning Pastoral Care Class.

STUDY SKILLS TIP FOR JULY
Sometimes students think that ‘study skills’ is just something you need to be concerned with when you are at school. This is not the case at all. For example, most jobs will require learning and training, certification and assessment. Planning, managing workload and good time management skills will also be essential when students leave school.

One of the many ways our school supports the development of independent learning skills is through providing access to the online study skills handbook site: www.studyskillshandbook.com.au. Parents should encourage students to sign up for the tracking system in the handbook so they can easily keep track of the units they have completed. It is a good idea for students to choose different units to work on over time (maybe try a new unit each month?) so they can develop their understanding of these important skills and reflect on the areas they need to work on. This specialist resource complements the skill development that takes place in our classrooms.

So the study skills tip for this month is taken from the unit that looks at the reflection process after a test is returned to students. One of the concepts outlined in this unit is that of ‘kaizen’. The word Kaizen itself is derived from two different Japanese words, ‘kai’ and ‘zen’. KAI, meaning: to change or modify; and ZEN, meaning: to improve. Small constant changes can make a huge difference to students’ results. Only by reflecting on the way they learn and making changes can students improve the way they approach their work for school. The study skills handbook is a great tool to assist in this process.

Staff Development Day
The staff will be participating in a staff spirituality day on **Friday, 7th August**. On this day, presenter Fr Richard Leonard will examine the role of staff in Catholic schools and evangelisation within our modern culture. Parents are asked to contact the college immediately if they are unable to arrange suitable alternative care for their children on this pupil free day.

Communication
The college has a number of avenues to communicate information to students, parents and the local community. These include the newsletter, student diary, college sign at the front of the college and the college website. I would encourage all to regularly check the college website for updates but also use the college diary to communicate information between yourselves and the class or pastoral care teachers.

Mr R Grech
Acting Assistant Principal

Year 5 students visit GSCC
Parenting Corner

Well it’s Parent/Teacher interview time again! A time which is sometimes dreaded by parents, teachers and not least of all the students.

In terms of the educational value it has in the connection between teacher and parents as the educators of the child and the value to the child, it is one of the important ‘moments’ in the school year.

Much preparation goes into the event as far as teachers go. It is something they take very seriously but the real value is in the listening of the parents to the advice and recommendations made and the ACTION that follows.

The real value of the exercise is in how seriously the information, passed on in a spirit of genuine concern and goodwill, is taken by parents and conveyed with earnestness to the child.

Praise is given when it is due and should be passed on. Equally, when there are lessons of attentiveness, hard work and the need to work more seriously these should be passed on.

While not wanting to be constantly peering over the shoulder of the child, parents should show genuine interest in the development of the child with particular emphasis on the advice and recommendations of those they have freely chosen to meet the educational and personal needs of their child.

Parents and teachers should be cooperators in the education of the children.

Thankfully, so many of our parents are supportive of the great work done in the school. For your child to get maximum benefit from his/her education that strong partnership is essential.

Br Colin

Year 9 Debating Report

Most students look forward to Friday afternoons. It marks the end of another ‘boring’ week of schooling. Some people even count the hours, the minutes, the seconds till the end of the day, the end of the term, the end of the year.

Justin Jarrett, Brittany Kirby, Maddison McPherson and Joseph Ragusa also look forward to Friday afternoons, but for a much different reason. It is their chance to collaborate, argue and voice their opinions, something that many of us enjoy, but hardly ever have the chance to do properly. Debating provides that opportunity in a safe, open and constructive environment.

Our students have been honing and mastering their debating skills for a couple of years now and have become very good at what they do (just ask their parents how well they can argue a point). Consequently, this year’s interschool debating competition was met with high hopes and expectations from both students and coach.

Our Year 9 Good Samaritan debaters faced off against some tough opposition, including All Saints Catholic Girls College, All Saints Catholic Boys College, Thomas Hassel Anglican College, Freeman Catholic College, Mary MacKillop Catholic College and Clancy Catholic College. The topics ranged from current affairs to the environment to sport and back again, but nothing could shake the foundations of our strong team-lines, airtight definitions and superior refutations. Sure enough, we finished the rounds undefeated and began to focus our thoughts and energy towards the finals.

“We should have more fun!” The topic for the final against All Saints Girls was announced and debaters and coach alike shared meaningful looks. Surely we could do this, it can’t be hard to persuade people that we need more fun in our lives. And so the battle began.

Tensions were high. We all waited impatiently, fidgeting in our seats, biting the last of our fingernails, and then the decision we had wanted to hear since the start of the term: “the winners of tonight’s debate are Good Samaritan Catholic College”.

Sweet release, a combined sigh of relief expelled by our side of the crowd. The GSCC team had done what they had set out to do, and thoroughly deserved their victory. They showed outstanding commitment, unwavering teamwork and a newfound maturity in their thinking and expression.

Congratulations team. I can’t wait till next year.

Miss M. Boggs

GSCC Concert Band

Good Samaritan Catholic College will be starting a school band next term. A music company called Musicorp will be coming in to demonstrate various instruments to students. This will include: flute, clarinet, trumpet, violin, percussion, just to name a few.

The instrument demonstration will take place early in Term 3 for Year 7 and 8. Any student form Year 9-11 who is interested will need to see Mrs. Popovic for more information.

After students have seen the instrument demonstration a note will be sent home about what instrument your son/daughter is interested in playing. If there are any questions please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Popovic at the college on 9825 9955.
Technology News

* Year 9 Laptops - A great learning tool!

The Year 9 Laptop Scheme is now in full action, and there have been some great classroom activities where the laptops have been used as part of the lesson. For instance, the science department used the laptop to digitally record an experiment of dissecting an eye, and students in IST have been busy developing multimedia products using Flash! I thank Year 9 for continuing to use this great resource effectively. A big thank you, also to the laptop monitor team who give the rest of our year 9 students ongoing helpful support for their laptops.

* Special Events Team - Term 2

This term was very busy for the technology department, especially with the rollout of the new Year 9 laptops. There were a group of students though, who were always willing to support the set up and organisation of events this term. They helped set up assemblies and liturgies, helped construct and produce the Year 7 Camp DVD, and other initiatives in the area of technology. On behalf of the College community, I would like to thank them for their ongoing support:

- Brooke Hellyer
- Clae Dickson
- Chloe Parke
- Stephanie Poschl
- Bryce Jarrett

Mr J. Reyes
IT Co-ordinator

From the Curriculum Coordinator

Year 11 2010 Subject Selection Process is underway and Year 10 students have been working on identifying their career aspirations and reflecting on the subjects that they would like to follow in Year 11 and 12 so that they can achieve these goals.

Students wishing to continue their education have been speaking with teachers about the requirements of senior study. In particular, the commitment necessary to successfully complete a HSC. Parents of Year 10 students were given a letter last Wednesday outlining the concluding phase of this process. The important dates are as follows:

Thursday 30th July 2009 - Year 10 Subject information day held at the college.
Monday 3rd August 2009 - Year 11 Information Evening held at the college.

These evenings begin at 6pm with an opportunity for students and parents to speak to staff about the various courses on offer for 2010. This will be followed by a formal information session at 7pm. This is a compulsory date for attendance, and if you are unable to make the date then you must inform the college (Ms Walker or Mrs Jarvis) in writing or by telephone.

On Thursday 20th August 2009 interviews will be conducted with parents and students to finalise subject choices. Details of this evening will be provided at a later stage.

Year 9 2010 Subject Selection Process begins when students return next term. An important date for parents of students in Year 8 is MONDAY 24th AUGUST 2009. On this evening, students and parents need attend a compulsory information session held at the college. More details about this process will follow in a letter to Year 8 parents.

Mrs R Jarvis
Curriculum Coordinator
YEAR 8 Stars of today and the future?

Many students are disciplined in their approach to school work and their other interests. Recently two Year 8 students have reaped the benefits of their commitment and hard work.

Congratulations to Josephine Losurdo who recently performed with Scott Kermond in the musical “The Candyman.” Josephine said, “I always enjoy performing, but being on Theatre Royal stage was an amazing experience. Working with many entertainment industry professionals was a whole new level for me.” We wish Josephine continued success as she balances a disciplined approach to her studies and performance pursuits.

Congratulations to Joseph Mawson who continues to rip up the bitumen as he roars around race tracks across Australia. This year Joseph has raced his 125cc go kart locally and on tracks in Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania. Joseph’s success includes 4 State Championships and numerous podium finishes. He has also appeared in several Go Karting magazines. We continue to hope that Joseph will always see the safety of every finish line in every race as he balances school with his other interests.

Mr S Gray, Yr 8 Coordinator
**Dates to Remember**

**Monday 27th July**  
Term 3 commences

**Wednesday 29th July**  
Year 11 Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews 3.30pm—7pm

**Wednesday 29th July**  
Year 11, 2010 Subject Information Morning

**Monday 3rd August**  
Year 11, 2010 Subject Market and Information Evening

---

**MISA FINALS**

On Tuesday 30th June, Good Samaritan had 6 teams compete in grand finals. They were the 7, 8, 9/10 Netball, 11/12 Touch Football, 9/10 and 11/12 soccer. Of these teams we were victorious in the 7 and 9/10 Netball coached by Mrs Cook and Ms Najdek respectively and I would like to congratulate them on their outstanding performances on being undefeated premiers. Well done to all teams this season.

- **Year 7 Netball Team**  
  Jacinta Gatto  
  Georgina Ciampa  
  Claudia Criniti  
  Bianca Tomelic  
  Laura Cross  
  Jessica Monti  
  Shaniya Kumar  
  Angela Macri  
  Tanya Sobesiak

- **9/10 Girls MISA Netball Team**  
  Lauren Smith  
  Monique Brown  
  Nicole Cameron  
  Melissa Arndell  
  Alyssa Cook  
  Brydie Cooper  
  Connie Pipicella  
  Hannah Gilvear  
  Zoe Tishler  
  Natasha Pope  
  Kobey Martin  
  Emily Swallow

---

**Netball Update**

The NSW State Age Netball Championships will be held from 10th—13th July at Woodward Park, Liverpool. Five girls from our college will be competing representing Fairfield and Liverpool districts as they play 26 games over the three days! This annual event showcases the best junior netballers in the State and is the culmination of months of hard work. Congratulations to Jacinta Gatto, Claudia Criniti, Georgina Ciampa, Monique Brown, Alyssa Cook and Melissa Arndell on their selection into their representative teams and we wish them all the best as they compete this weekend. Good luck girls!!