Welcome back to Semester Two. As we begin this new semester we celebrate a very special milestone in the life of Sr Marj. On August 1st, Sr Marj will celebrate 50 years since she took her final profession as an Ursuline nun. As Sr Marj began her vocation she committed her life to her God and to the service of young people. Sr Marj has been in places such as Canberra, Toowoomba, Armidale, Kingsgrove, San Francisco, Rome and Hinchinbrook in her life of service. Many people would have benefited from Sr Marj’s work, care and compassion and I feel as a community we have a great deal for which we should be grateful. Sr Marj is an example of dedication, devotion and faithfulness and on behalf of our community I thank her for what she brings to us and pray for God’s blessings as she reaches this wonderful milestone.

I congratulate all of those students who performed so well during the first semester. At the end of last term I had the opportunity to read each report, and many were most impressive. After reading the reports I considered what factors the students with outstanding reports had in common. Some of the factors were as follows:

- A commitment to study with a willingness to “always” strive to do their best
- An organised approach to their work and study.
- A homework and study routine to which they are prepared to adhere.

A willingness to complete all work and seek assistance when necessary.
An attendance record that displays absences for legitimate reasons only.
A recognition of the right and obligation of every person to learn

I encourage all students to consider these positive approaches and if not already, adopt the approaches in order to achieve their personal best.

Today the college conducted a multi day to raise funds for the Charitable Works Fund School’s Appeal. The funds will be used to support charitable works undertaken by the Catholic Church across the Archdiocese of Sydney. These essential works could not be sustained but for the generosity of people across the Archdiocese. I thank all students involved in today’s fundraising and am sure that those who benefit from the charitable works of the Catholic Church in Sydney will also be grateful.

Recently the college received the report of the cyclic review process which was undertaken last term. The college was praised for its development and the strategic directions that have been set both in our Annual Plans and the five year Strategic Management Plan. There was praise for the college’s learning improvement and the sense of confidence that success has generated, as well as the strategic and purposeful approach taken to teaching and learning. The team also acknowledged future directions established by the college and endorsed the following priorities:

- To deepen the faith understanding of staff, students and parents and establish stronger parish links and support in view of the New Evangelisation;
- to continue to promote a culture of personal excellence where success is expected promoted valued and rewarded;
◊ To continue to develop the college as a learning community;
◊ To continue to develop a whole school approach to the explicit teaching of literacy;
◊ to formalize the embedding of ICT throughout the curriculum.

These directions will be considered a high priority as our Annual Development Plans are developed in the future.

During the school holidays the carpets in the staff room the “B” block were replaced. This was only possible due to the generosity of the Federal Government via the Pride in Schools grants. I thank and acknowledge the federal government for making this refurbishment possible.

Next Friday is a Staff Development Day at Good Samaritan, with a focus on staff spirituality. Staff at the college will address the question “How can Catholic Educators form believers in a media saturated culture?” This professional learning will be of benefit to both staff and students as our values continue to be challenged in our world. Being a staff development day, students are not required to attend school on that day.

God Bless

Mr J Lo Cascio
Principal

POST World Youth Day 2009

One year since WYD Sydney, and the count down until the next WYD in Madrid continues. What’s happening this August?

Worship in the City - Prayer & Prophecy

Night
Date: Friday 14/08/2009
Time: 7pm - 9pm
Location: St Marys Cathedral Crypt, Sydney
Description: Special guest AFL Swans player and WYD Ambassador Jared Crouch, anointed prayer and prophecy led by Ron Maldigiri, with music by Harvest Band, Baulkham Hills (Miss Welsh’s Church Band)
Host: Worship in the City
Contact: cathymartorana@yahoo.com.au
Web link: www.myspace.com/worshipinthecity

Parenting Corner

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

Dear Parents

Well we’re here again at the beginning of Term 3 – how time flies – and it’s my turn again. Brother Colin’s column always gave much food for thought and action. My thanks to him.

While I was visiting beautiful Kiama with family, I couldn’t help but notice the inspirational messages on many of the shop fronts. Once, you only saw these in Churches, so that is encouraging. One that captured my attention was COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS NOT YOUR PROBLEMS. This set me thinking and reminded me of a song we learnt at school.

Count your blessings one by one
The big or small whichever way they come
They will light your heart with happiness
Make your hours bright and bring you gladness.
Count your blessings while you may
For we are here with little time to stay
And you will find this world a place of love
If you will count your blessings from above.

Not least of the BLESSINGS in your life are of course your children. While you might not always see them in this light as they go through their teenage years, I’m sure a parent’s LOVE is ALL EMBRACING through the good and bad days.

At the end of term, I accompanied our students to a Social Justice Day at St Scholastica’s at Glebe. Luke Tobin, who facilitated the day, began to thank the students for the way they had participated and he couldn’t go on - so overwhelmed was he by the commitment of these 350 plus students from Catholic schools from all over Sydney. Many get the impression that our teenagers are only interested in their I-pods and mobiles but give them a challenge and they will respond.

So this term, may we always try and see the POSITIVES in our children and reinforce where we can. It will help their SELF ESTEEM, so important for adolescents. May you take heart and consolation from the fact that for the most part, you have guided them safely this far !!!
Praying for you the blessings of parenthood,

Sr Marj

BUS DRIVER

As everyone is aware, the college has its own bus, which significantly reduces transport costs of some excursions. One of the difficulties of our present situation is the lack of drivers at the college. We are seeking suitable licensed volunteer drivers who may be able to offer their services to drive students from venues, on various occasions. If anyone can help in this area, we ask that you contact the college office and leave your details.
Monday 3rd August 2009 – Year 11 Information Evening held at the college

This evening begins 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 this 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

LAUNCH OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT’S “SCHOOLS GATEWAY” CYBERSMART WEBSITE

The Australian Communications and Media Authority have recently launched ‘Schools’ Gateway’ as part of their new Cybersmart website www.cybersmart.gov.au

The Cybersmart website represents a single access point for cybersafety advice across a range of target audiences - children, parents, libraries and schools. The site includes comprehensive and practical advice for parents, interactive learning activities for children and information about social networking for teens. The website also includes a link to the Cybersmart Online Helpline for young people who have had negative experiences online, such as cyberbullying.

The ‘Schools Gateway’ offers a wide range of accessible and engaging resources to assist primary and secondary schools to develop and implement a holistic approach to cybersafety. In the current technological environment, these are critical resources for school use.

Please note:
For further information please contact Narelle McMahon on 9568 8251 or Carolyn Hadley on 9568 8492.

GOOD SAMARITAN CATHOLIC COLLEGE BAND INSTRUMENT DEMONSTRATION

Students in Year 7 and 8 had their instrument demonstration this morning. Students had the opportunity to see and hear different instruments provided by Musicorp. Instruments included flute, trumpet, clarinet and violins, just to name a few.

Students will be given notes to take home if they are interested in learning an instrument. When this note is returned to the college, Musicorp will give your son/daughter the opportunity to try the instrument they have chosen and see if it is suitable for them. There will be a parent/student information evening in the coming weeks. Musicorp will explain the tuition lessons and parents will have the opportunity to ask any questions. If there are any questions in the meantime please contact Mrs Popovic at the college on 9825 9955.

’WE WILL ROCK YOU’ MUSIC INCURSION

On Thursday 2nd of July, Year 8 students attended a music incursion called ‘We will rock you’. The incursion was presented by Terry Murray, who has been conducting music incursions at our College for ten years.

As always, Terry presented the students with a fun and educational performance of the history of rock music and how it has evolved since rock n roll emerged in the 1950's. He demonstrated a variety of sounds, styles and techniques on an array of fender guitars, which left staff and students astounded at his talent.

Well done to Matthew Froio who joined Terry at the end in a rendition of ‘thunderstruck’ by ACDC.

INSTRUMENT TUITION

Anyone interested in instrument tuition on the piano, bass, drums, vocals or guitar can see Miss Benjamin or Mrs Popovic to sign up. Lessons are conducted at the College on a rotating timetable basis, which avoids students missing the same lesson more than twice. In particular, students studying elective music are invited to take up this opportunity.

REMINDER - FRIDAY 7TH AUGUST IS A PUPIL FREE DAY!
**YEAR 12 TARONGA ZOO BIOLOGY EXCURSION**

On July 8th 2009, Year 12 Biology, together with Ms Flocco and Ms Walker, ventured to Taronga Zoo. The morning began with a lecturer from Taronga Zoo who gave us a broad overview of “The Human Story” topic, which helped us to fulfill the activities set out throughout the day.

It was an eventful day where we visited our closest relatives in order to broaden our understanding of the course. We were able to observe and understand numerous animals around the zoo such as gorillas, chimpanzees and gibbons. Fortunately, we were also able to see the newest member of the elephant family, Luk Chai.

We would like to thank Ms Flocco and Ms Walker for giving up their time in coming with us to the excursion. It was a fun, interesting and rewarding day that was enjoyed by all.

By Nicole Borczyk, Diana Macri and Danielle McPherson

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**RED CROSS BLEED ON BOARD SERVICE**

On the 8th of July, year 12 students and teachers donated blood for the Australia Red Cross Blood Service. Although some students were nervous about the idea of donating blood for the first time, we knew that it would substantially improve the quality of life for those with medical problems. The donation process took a mere 10-15 minutes, and donors left with the satisfaction of knowing they had significantly impacted the lives of others. Donating gave us a sense of satisfaction as we went away with the understanding that others may be given a second chance at life or their lifestyle enhanced. The fact that it will be used to assist those suffering from cancer, traumatic accidents, serious burns or those who must undergo surgery is a reward in itself. Blood donations have a short shelf-life and are constantly in demand. All blood donations are greatly appreciated by the Red Cross and those eligible are strongly recommended to take part as it is seen as a valuable contribution towards society.

Criselda Reyes, Year 12

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**“HOT PIES AND POTATO CRISPS” YEAR 8 ENGLISH INCURSION**

By Konrad Ryzak
8.1 English

Last term students in Year 8 watched a special presentation that focused on Australian poetry. Here is a report of the incursion by a student in Year 8: On the 16th of June 2009, year 8 participated in an English incursion. Brett Hunt is a literary poet and travels Australia playing guitar and singing. “Hot Pies and Potato Crisps” was a motivating display of poetry through song. Brett Hunt uses old and traditional lyrics and also modern renowned songs. From the old dreaming story of the aboriginals “Solid Rock” to the passionate song of “Love is in The Air” he captivated his audience and made them cry with laughter. The songs followed the history of Australia starting with convicts, bush rangers and the gold rush and slowly moved up to the 80’s and to today’s society. However, it breached the easy going listening and kept your mind on edge if you wanted to follow the plot of the production. Brett Hunt casually weaved his way through history and into our hearts leaving us demanding an encore.
Parent Info Night  Not to be missed
12th August 2009

What's worrying our children?
Addressing childhood anxieties - the research and parent action

Whether you’re a parent, a practitioner or an organisation that works with parents, the international award winning Triple P – Positive Parenting Program, backed by over 25 years of clinically proven, worldwide research, has the answers to your parenting questions and needs.

Peter Tryon has a consultancy role with Triple P International as an accredited trainer. Peter has worked in education for four decades and has wide experience with children 3 to 16 years of age.

Speaker: Peter Tryon
Venue: Revesby Workers Club
2b Brett St, Revesby (Phone: 9772 2100)

12th August 2009
7.30 - 9.00pm
Free Admission for Catholic School Parents

RSVP by 5th August

Registrations essential:

We will attend the Parent Night on 12th August 2009 at Revesby Workers’ Club

Name 1: ___________________________ Name 2: ___________________________
School: ___________________________ Suburb: ___________________________
Phone/Email Contact: ___________________________

Margaret Anderson, Phone: 02 9568 6219, Fax: 02 9568 8470
Mail: PO Box 217, Leichhardt NSW 2040
Email: margaret.anderson@cooysd.catholic.edu.au
RSVP by 5th August
30th July 2009

Dear Parent/Caregiver

I am writing to remind you of the current information regarding the control of H1N1 Influenza (Human Swine Influenza).

In regard to procedures for responding to the illness, the Australian Government entered into the phase of response known as the PROTECT Phase back in June. This phase was introduced because the virus is currently not as virulent as was anticipated, and is generally only producing a mild disease in most people, severe in some and moderate overall. The advice from NSW Chief Health Officer, Dr Kerry Chant about responding to Human Swine Flu in this PROTECT phase is as follows:

“...people who have no underlying medical conditions and are experiencing only mild flu-like symptoms should stay at home and minimise contact with others, until they are well. People who develop moderate symptoms should see their GP. Those with severe symptoms should go to their nearest Emergency Department.”


Based on this information, advice to schools is as follows:

◊ Any student or staff member who develops flu-like symptoms should stay home until well again, and see their doctor as necessary.
◊ All students and staff should maintain a very high level of personal hygiene.

This advice essentially means that the usual processes for responding to student illness are the same as they would normally be. However, what is also very important is that you remain vigilant in checking on the ongoing health of your child. Please watch carefully for signs or symptoms of flu-like illness such as fever, cough, headache, unusual tiredness, muscle-ache, sore throat, chills or shortness of breath. Keep your child away from school at first sign of illness.

The advice from NSW Health is that pregnant women, as well as people with underlying chronic diseases, are potentially more vulnerable to the more serious effects of all forms of influenza, including the H1N1 strain. With this in mind, to prevent contact with pregnant staff and parents and members of the school community with pre-existing health problems, I especially seek your assistance in ensuring that your child does not attend school with flu symptoms. I ask that you particularly mention this to the medical practitioner who assesses your child so that appropriate caution is exercised.

Further information from NSW Health can be obtained from NSW Department of Health website http://www.emergency.health.nsw.gov.au/swineflu/index.asp

We will continue to communicate with you if there are any changes to this advice. In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact the school.

Kind regards

Mr J. Lo Cascio
Principal
We celebrate Social Justice Sunday on 27th September. This year’s Social Justice Sunday Statement is titled “And You Will Be My Witness”.

During WYD 08 Australia saw thousands of young Christians inspired by the Holy Spirit. Yet many young people are marginalised, excluded and deprived of dignity. The Bishops recall the challenge of Pope Benedict—"What will you leave to the next generation? What difference will you make?"—and present it again to all Australians, young and old.

Further details visit the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council website (www.acsjc.org.au) or call 8306 3499
Dates to Remember

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

Thursday 6th August
Australian Mathematics Competition

Friday 7th August
Staff Development Day—PUPIL FREE DAY

Monday 10th—24th August
Trial HSC examinations

Thursday 20th August
Interviews to finalise subject choices Year 11, 2010

Canteen Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Staff Members</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 3rd August</td>
<td>J. Short, F. Oselli</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 4th August</td>
<td>D. Toro, A. Waga</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 5th August</td>
<td>J. Roccisano, L. Dwarte</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 6th August</td>
<td>M. Alsafar, T. Severino, P. Santomingo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 7th August</td>
<td>PUPIL FREE DAY</td>
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<td>Monday 10th August</td>
<td>N. Carver, D. Palumbo</td>
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<td>Tuesday 11th August</td>
<td>L. Versi, J. Martinez, A. Spadaro</td>
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<td>Wednesday 12th August</td>
<td>J. Vartuli, G. Baretta, A. Morozoff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 13th August</td>
<td>A. ONeil, L. Parke, D. Poschl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 14th August</td>
<td>N. D’Amore, M. Cleary, G. Cownie</td>
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Red Cross Donation Van visits

Naidoc Week Celebrations

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@gscchinchinbrook.catholic.edu.au