Dear Parents and Friends of the Community,

This week students in Year 12 began their Trial Higher School Examinations. This is quite a stressful time for the students as the examinations contribute up to 40% of an individual student’s HSC assessment grade. The college has attempted to respond to pressure on our Year 12 students by providing support, additional access to study areas in the school and assigning a teacher mentor to each Year 12 student. It is hoped that these measures will alleviate any pressure that students may feel. I ask everyone to keep Year 12 in their prayers as they undertake these very important exams.

As part of the Year 12 assessment program, subjects such as Drama, Music, Visual Art, Industrial Technology and Engineering Science have a practical component or major work. The college will acknowledge these works in our Annual HSC Major Works and Performance evening. The evening will take place on Wednesday 26 August between 6 and 9pm and all members of our college community and their families are invited to attend this special event.

Last Monday I attended a meeting with the facilities advisor from the Catholic Education Office and the architects who have designed our new hall and chapel. The purpose of the meeting was to consider tenders for the college hall and chapel project. The final tender will be decided shortly and final negotiations will ensure that the project will begin in the coming month.

In a recent newsletter, the topic of the senior uniform was discussed. It was explained that the uniform would be reconsidered as it was not deemed to be sufficiently different to the junior uniform to warrant the additional cost. As a result of the above concerns, a consultation process began to assess the opinions of the community. After consultation with parents, staff and students it has been decided that the senior girls uniform will remain the same as the present senior uniform. The senior boys uniform, on the other hand, will change, with boys in Years 11, 2010 wearing the same trousers as the junior students. Senior boys will maintain wearing the senior college tie all year round. The college will continue to seek a senior uniform which sets seniors apart from juniors but which keeps additional costs to a minimum.

Over this term, Year 10 students have been undertaking a program to choose elective subjects for Year 11 in 2010. This process is taken very seriously by the college and it is essential that parents, students and teachers work together to ensure that students make wise choices. The Year 11 students will meet individually with teachers on 20 August to ensure that their choices are both appropriate to their ability and to their career aspirations. Wise choices can have a significant and positive impact on performance in senior years and beyond school. I wish all involved in this process well and thank students, parents and teachers for the considerable investment of time to ensure the success of the choices.

Last Tuesday, Mr Brooks undertook a review of his performance as Assistant Principal, as part of the process of contract renewal. The process involved surveys of staff, students, parents and pastors. The feedback was very positive and I congratulate Mr Brooks on his first two years at the college. We look forward to the conclusions to the review which will be available to the college in the near future.

Last Saturday, the Catholic Church celebrated the feast of Blessed Mary Mackillop. This year the feast becomes more significant for two reasons. Firstly, it is one hundred years since the death of Mary Mackillop and, secondly, it is widely acknowledged that the time is fast approaching where Blessed Mary Mackillop will be proclaimed the first Australian saint. The college acknowledged this feast with the celebration of various liturgies throughout
the school. Added to this on August 5, Claudio Vidal, Justine Salazar, Johann Kamalaneson, Veronica Nguyen, Jacinta Vella, Miss Walker and Mr Grech travelled to St Marys Cathedral to celebrate the occasion with schools from across the Archdiocese. I encourage everyone to pray for and to Mary Mackillop and look forward to her canonisation.

Finally, tomorrow is the Feast of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven. As Mother of Jesus, Mary is set apart from the rest of humanity since her body did not remain on earth, but was assumed into Heaven in anticipation of the general resurrection of the dead. The feast of the Assumption is a Holy Day of Obligation and all Catholics are expected to attend celebration of the Eucharist on the day.

This very special feast calls on each one of us to reflect on the life of Mary our Mother and the sacrifices she made during her life, and her faith.

God Bless

Mr J Lo Cascio
Principal

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.

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

Year 9 2010 Subject Selection Process. 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

HEARING AWARENESS WEEK
August 23rd – 29th, 2009

This year the theme for Hearing Awareness Week is ‘At home, at work and at play’. Many young people risk permanently damaging their hearing ‘at play’ so the suggestions are:

◊ Turn down your ipod or personal stereo player and get better fitting ear buds. If other people can hear your music, it’s probably up too loud!
◊ Take and wear ear-plugs when you go to noisy venues such as night clubs, concerts, motor racing or the gym – exposure to excessive noise for any length of time can cause irreparable damage.
◊ Don’t have the music up too loud in your car – it could be doing your ears damage without you even realising it.

In Australia, one in six people have some form of hearing impairment. This means that hearing loss is more common than cardiovascular disease, diabetes, asthma, cancer and mental health issues. So, what can be done to help?:

◊ Hearing aids, cochlear implants and sign language are all ways to improve communication if you have a hearing loss.
◊ Many venues and businesses now have assistive listening systems such as hearing loops and FM systems.
◊ The National Relay Service is a phone service for people with a hearing loss. You can also use Internet Relay on a computer.
◊ Captioning is available on some DVD’s and videos. Also, some cinemas (eg. Greater Union, George St) have captioned movie sessions for new releases.

And remember....if you damage your hearing, it will never come back!

Mrs Le Cornu
(Itinerant Teacher – Hearing)

The Year of the Priest

Tuesday 4th August was the feast day of St John Vianney, Patron saint of priests. He was arguably one of the most saintly priests that ever lived. He came from a very poor family in the south of France and despite difficulties in acquiring an education, he was eventually ordained and sent to work in the village of Ars. It was here that he shined as a simple man who

led a holy life ministering to the people of his village and country with thousands of people, rich and poor, flocking to him weekly for guidance. St John Vianney’s feast day this year marks the beginning of the Year of the Priest. Pope Benedict XVI has set this year aside to remind us that as a church community which is built upon the legacy of the apostles and relies upon the sacraments for our journey to holiness, priests are central to our catholic life. Over the next year we have been asked to remember the work done by the many excellent priests that have ministered to our, and our family’s lives over many years, both here in Australia and overseas. It is also a time to pray for and to promote the vocation to the priesthood. If you would like to have some idea of vocations in Sydney, then go to www.vocations@sydney.catholic.org.au

Paul Kingsman REC
A big THANK YOU to all for your prayers and good wishes for my Golden Jubilee. My journey has been celebrated with my COMMUNITY, here at SCHOOL and in the PARISH, so I have been truly BLESSED.

Reflecting on those 50 years and when I was a teenager has led me to think about role models. It was a very different world and young people could look up to their parents, Church leaders, police, teachers, sports people, politicians and others who modelled good commitment. Sadly in today’s world a small minority in these groups have failed our young people miserably. At our Staff Spirituality day on Friday Father Richard asked us to come up with one person in the public eye who is a committed Catholic and Mass goer. It was a challenge to come up with even one!! As I have said before I marvel that our young students are as good as they are.

God Bless
Sr Marj

CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEALESVILLE (ST BRIDGID’S)
“Thanks Good Samaritan for Bushfire Donation support”

A letter of thanks to Good Samaritan College for Bushfire donation support has been received from Fr Julian Langridge, Parish Priest, Catholic Parish of Healesville (St Brigid’s) The letter reads:

“Thank you for your kind and generous donation towards the Bushfire Appeal.

We are most appreciative of the generosity of all who have opened their hearts to those who have suffered so terribly through this devastating time.

I can assure you that all donations of goods, money and services are being channelled directly to the bushfire victims, as help will be required for so many families for some considerable time to come.

Once again, thank you for your generosity. It is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely in Christ,
Fr Julian Langridge”

Christian Brothers College Centenary Dinner

All old boys and ex-staff of Christian Brothers’ College, Burwood are invited to the Old Boy’s Centenary Dinner to be held at Rosehill Racecourse on Saturday 15th August. A fabulous meal, including all drinks, awaits you when you join with your old friends.

Further information can be obtained from the college website:
www.cbcburwood.catholic.edu.au or by calling the office on 9747 4211.

SPECIAL MASS

A Mass to mark the centenary of Blessed Mary MacKillop’s death was held at St Mary’s Cathedral in Sydney with more than 700 students from Sydney’s Catholic primary and secondary schools gathering to celebrate her extraordinary life and ministry.

Led by His Eminence Cardinal George Pell, five student representatives from all 147 Sydney Catholic systemic schools came together in a liturgical extravaganza to celebrate the significant milestone in an important year of her legacy as she is close to becoming Australia’s first internationally recognised saint.

Each school received a special plaque in commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of her death and every student received a special Blessed Mary MacKillop prayer card.

Dr Dan White, Executive Director of Catholic Schools, said that 45 schools in which the Sisters of St Joseph administered, received a special commemorative plaque to mark the occasion.

“To be part of this most significant and major gathering, is a very special way to celebrate one of the most significant women in Australia’s history and a pillar of the Australian Catholic Church,” Dr White said. As well as this Archdiocesan celebration, every Sydney Catholic School is planning special liturgies in support of celebrating this wonderful occasion for the Catholic Church in Australia.
Southern Sydney Athletics Carnival 2009

19° - Fine and sunny with a slight wind chill – almost the perfect conditions for the 2009 Southern Sydney Athletics Carnival at Sylvania Waters. The 40 or so students who attended displayed their fair share of ‘Good Samaritan’ gusto and flair.

The day started particularly early, with many complaints about the hour of departure and much difficulty marking the roll in 6am darkness. However, once we arrived, it was hard to keep students off the track; all were so willing and eager to get started and jog, sprint, throw or jump their way through the day.

Congratulations must certainly be given to all students. Most if not all students were coerced into participating in more events than initially planned, and they did so with plenty of guts and determination with huge smiles on their faces.

We were fortunate enough to see some truly phenomenal performances on the day.

Special mention must go to the following students who finished first or second in their respective events and have been selected to represent Southern Sydney at the upcoming NSW Combined Catholic Colleges Athletics Carnival.

Monique Brown – 1st in the U14’s Girls Shot Put
Daniel Cassone – 2nd in the U15’s Boys 400m
Luke Cyron – 1st in the U15’s Boys Long Jump
Tara Eastaugh – 1st in the U16’s Girls Discus
Joseph Foti – 1st in the U17’s Boys Discus
John Pellegrini – 1st in the U14’s Boys 100m and 2nd in the U14’s Boys 200m
Lucas Ruzic – 1st in the U12’s Boys Discus
Jordan Ruzic – 1st in the U15’s Boys Discus
Carmelo Ussia – 1st in the U16’s Boys 100m and 1st in the U14’s Boys 200m
Phoenix Vaiout – 1st in the U15’s Boys 100m

In addition, both Carmelo Ussia and Haylee Ingle were awarded Runner-Up Age Champions for their all-round effort and achievement on the day.

Good Samaritan is very proud of all our athletes.

Miss M. Boggs and Mr V. Micev

Caneen Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 17th August</td>
<td>A. Testa, M. Macri, L. Tomelic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 18th August</td>
<td>L. La Rosa, L. Pacchiarotta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 19th August</td>
<td>A. Pipicella, R. Saliba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 20th August</td>
<td>S. Licha, G. Bartolo, C. Ienco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 21st August</td>
<td>L. Vella, C. Smith, S. Gioiosa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 24th August</td>
<td>D. Ingle, L. Losurdo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 25th August</td>
<td>G. Natoli, B. Boustany, K. Matti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 26th August</td>
<td>A. Macias, N. Bodagh, C. Kairuz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 27th August</td>
<td>A. Spadaro, T. Severino, C. Byrne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 28th August</td>
<td>R. Parker, M. Mudaliar, H. Molina</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>