Dear Parents and Friends of the Community,

Last Thursday at our college assembly, we had the opportunity to acknowledge the work that Mr Kevin Maguire undertakes around the College. Mr Maguire was presented with a “Pride of Workmanship Award” from Mr Renzo Valleri, Vocational Director of the Rotary Club. This Award is presented in recognition of Mr Maguire's dedication and hard work in service to the college community. I congratulate Mr Maguire on being most deserving of this Award. The Assembly also involved the presentation of Gold awards to Alyssa Cook and Hannah Brocklehurst. The awards are presented in recognition of these students’ dedication and commitment to all aspects of college life. In a previous newsletter, I acknowledged a number of Year 12 Gold Award recipients; however, I failed to include Matthew De Martin among the students. I now acknowledge Matthew on this achievement, dedication and commitment throughout his time at the college. Congratulations Hannah, Alyssa and Matthew.

Last week saw the conclusion of the Higher School Certificate and School Certificate Examinations. I congratulate the majority of students for their approach to the examinations. I was once again very pleased to hear the accolades that students received from the examination supervisors. The mature and conscientious approach was lauded throughout the examination period. The college now awaits the results of the examinations with the School Certificate being released on December 7 and The Higher School Certificate on December 16.

On December 10 the College will be conducting our Annual Awards Evening at All Saints Performing Arts Centre, Liverpool. This is an opportunity to review the year and to acknowledge the outstanding performances in many areas of College life. I invite parents, students and friends of the college to join us on December 10 and to be part of this very special evening.

At the end of last term, it was of major concern that a large number of students were absent from school without legitimate reasons. I wish to emphasise that all students are expected to attend school on every school day. At times, the activities undertaken may differ from the daily routine; however, the activities certainly benefit the community and/or student development. It is also important for parents and students to be aware that it is not appropriate for holidays to be planned during school terms as this can have a negative impact on both student learning and their overall performance.

During the last week, a number of significant events have taken place at the college which have helped to promote student character and learning for life. Students in Year 9 were involved in their camp at Tea Gardens in Week 4 and in Peer Support training on Thursday and Friday of this week. Year 10 had the opportunity to be involved in a Reflection Day on Wednesday and last Thursday the College Leaders for 2010 were involved in leadership training. Each of these activities was an attempt to cater to different aspects of student learning and certainly gave students an opportunity to undertake personal and communal growth. I thank all of those people involved in the preparation and organization of the activities.

As we approach the end of the year, I wish to keep everyone up to date with staff changes for 2010. The following long standing staff will be leaving Good Samaritan to take up appointments at different schools throughout Sydney; Mr Grech (Assistant Principal - Delany Catholic College, Granville), Mrs Flanagan (English Coordinator De la Salle, Cronulla) Mr Cloran (Year Coordinator, Clancy Catholic College) and Br Colin who will be changing direction and working on a number of projects beyond Good
Samaritan. We thank each person for their significant contribution to Good Samaritan and wish them well in the future. Next week, Mrs Jarvis will also be leaving for a short period. She will be taking long service leave for the remainder of the year and we wish her well on her leave.

God bless

Mr J Lo Cascio,
Principal

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

The following students were presented with Gold and Silver Awards at the college assembly last week.

**Gold Awards**

- Year 7: Hannah Brocklehurst
- Year 10: Alyssa Cook

**Silver Awards**

- Year 7: Brian Kane, Jennet Spiropoulos
- Year 8: Taylah Eastaugh (2), Paul Michael, Adrian Olegario, Chloe Parke, Cristina Reho, Stephen Salinitri
- Year 10: Alyssa Cook, Nicholas Golubic, Natalie Lasek, Steven Pham

**PARENTING CORNER**

Dear Parent

Recently in the “Catholic Weekly”, an article on peer pressure reminded us that “All people become like the company they keep”, wisdom from the 5th Century BC philosopher Euripides. The 21st century equivalent is the oft-quoted.

“Tell me who your friends are and I’ll tell you what YOU are”.

Andrew Mullins (Parenting for Character) reminds us of how impressionable teenagers are and the immense influence that their peers have on them—for good or for bad. He speaks of how priceless in a school is positive peer example and how disastrous the effect of unmotivated friends.

How often, as parents, are we angered or perhaps saddened by that thing call ATTITUDE which our children take from models outside the family group.

Choosing a good school as you have in the case of Good Samaritan, often helps but is no guarantee to the influence of the peer group.

Nothing succeeds better than constant good example and our vigilance in ensuring that our teenager has good friends. Are you aware of who his/her friends are and encourage your child to bring them home? Are you comfortable in sharing your own family values with the visiting teenagers by your welcoming spirit and modeling these through your children?

It is not easy being a parent and the responsibilities are great but what a privilege. Good bless and good luck.

Br Colin

**School Fees**

As we approach the end of the year, parents are reminded that fees are now due. If any family is having difficulty meeting fee commitments, please contact Mr Archer to make an appointment to discuss the issue with Mr Lo Cascio.

**GSCC Term Dates**

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Term 4</td>
<td>Concludes Tuesday 15th Dec (Picnic Day)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>Commences Yr 7 only Thursday 28th Jan, Commences Year 8-12 Friday 29th Jan</td>
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Over the past two years, teachers from the Technology Department have trialled using desktop computers in some examinations. Recently laptops were used for the first time during an examination. We are grateful for the provision of excellent computer technology hardware, software, systems and technical support at Good Samaritan Catholic College.

Throughout Term 3, Year 9 Graphics Technology students learnt to adapt their Computer Aided Drawing skills to the laptop. Students discovered that their laptops were suitable for CAD applications. However, the touch pad created some the speed and accuracy issues. These issues were resolved by each student using a mini optical mouse.

Students said that they appreciated having the opportunity to demonstrate highly relevant course and problem solving skills in the Graphics examination rather than completing a traditional theory based exam. The Technology Department hope to continue to explore how laptops can enhance student assessment and feedback.

Please note that the next newsletter will be published on Friday 11th December and will be the final edition for 2009.
AUSTRALIAN MATHEMATICS COMPETITION
PRUDENCE AWARD WINNER

The Australian Mathematics Competition is a prestigious event which is held internationally. Good Samaritan Catholic College once again invited a group of students to participate in the annual event. This year John Pham Le was the College’s Prudence Award winner, for answering the highest number of consecutive questions correct. John was presented with his award at a special ceremony held at the Holroyd Centre on Wednesday 4th November. This presentation was held in recognition of the most outstanding Prudence Award Winners from our region. John is to be congratulated on his assiduous efforts and exceptional ability to solve complex mathematical problems.

Mr G Georgiou
Assistant Mathematics Co-ordinator

AUSTRALIAN STATISTICS POSTER COMPETITION
2009

This year was the first time Good Samaritan Catholic College participated in the Australian Statistics Poster Competition hosted by the Australian Mathematics Trust. Students at the college were invited to work in groups and pose a question which could be investigated. They were then required to present their results on a poster which was submitted for judging. It is a great honour to announce that the Senior Secondary National Prize of $200 went to Andrea Brocklehurst, Chanel Gronowski, and Joseph Nguyen from Year 11 for their investigation entitled Project IQ. The Senior Secondary NSW prize of $100 went to Leah Brown, Katherine Hobby and Renee Cox from Year 11 for their investigation entitled Life on the Dark Side. It also gives me great pleasure to announce that the College received three highly commended awards, these went to

Brandon Cook, Clae Dickson, and Luke Ferreira from Year 7,
Tanika Caruana, Jessie Mangan, Shannon Price from Year 10, and
Alyssa Suyko, Mariano Salvati, Dillon Tudor from Year 11

I would like to congratulate these students on their assiduous efforts and dedication to this project. I would also like to thank Mrs Stivala for the organisation of this event, and her efforts in mentoring these students. It is truly outstanding that out of the 17 national prizes that were awarded 5 of the recipients were entrants from Good Samaritan Catholic College. Congratulations on this achievement.

Mrs M Cook
Mathematics Co-ordinator

CARBON FOOTPRINT
HOW TO CLEAN GREEN ~ Your natural cleaning kit
HERE ARE SOME CLEANING TIPS

In the living room

Carpet cleaner Sprinkle bicarbonate of soda on the carpet before vacuuming to deodorize. For stain removal just vacuum or brush when dry.

Window cleaner Wash windows with soapy warm water if very dirty. Add half a cup of vinegar to a litre of warm water. Use crumbled news paper moistened with vinegar to get a beautiful sheen.

In the laundry

Bleach Use one cup of lemon juice in half a bucket of water and soak overnight, or substitute half a cup of borax per wash load to whiten whites and brighten colours.

Stain remover use eucalypts oil to remove stains before washing. Apply a few drops and let it evaporate.

Laundry detergent Mix one third of a cake of pure soap (grated) with one third of a cup of washing soda. Dissolve in hot water and top up with water. The mixture will set to a soft gel. Use 2-3 cups per wash.

From the Carbon Footprint Team
To celebrate the end of Stage Five, students from 10.1 Science used some of their remaining time to test the bounds of their creativity. Armed only with a pair of scissors, two hundred straws and their ingenuity, students had two periods to build a free-standing structure. The group that built the tallest structure would win the admiration of their peers (and a lolly from their teacher).

The lab buzzed with heated discussion and healthy disagreement as students designed and built their structures. As can be seen in the accompanying photos, the craftiness of the buildings was only limited by the students’ creative and problem-solving skills. Well done to all involved, particularly to the winning group whose tower peaked at 1.96 metres!

Ms Flocco
Assistant Science Co-ordinator

SECONDARY AND TOWARDS SENIOR YEARS

◊ Andrew Fuller has some new excellent resources to read or download about how parents and teachers can most effectively guide the education of teenagers.

- Check out http://www.andrewfuller.com.au for information on Andrew’s 10 Top Resilience Hints; Ideas for Improving learning with teens; and information about the Adolescent Brain and Helicopter Parenting.


◊ There are many ‘great reads for bad days’ (and nights) when raising your teenager. Several good books to keep beside your bed are:

- Dr David Bennett & Dr Leanne Rowe—“What to do when your children turn into teenagers” and “You can’t make me: Seven simple rules for parenting teenagers”
- Paul Dillon’s “Teenagers Alcohol and Drugs. What your kids really want and need to know about alcohol and drugs” is essential for parents with partying teenagers
- Dannielle Millers book “The Butterfly Effect” is a fresh and positive approach to help parents of teenage girls
- Lyn Worsley’s “The Resilience Doughnut: The Secret of Strong Kids”, gives an insight into the development of resilience and is a practical resource for all parents

◊ On http://www.abc.net.au/m/healthreport/stories/2009/257-650.html you can hear Norman Swan talk with Associate Professor Leanne Rowe, one of the authors of a new book about teenage depression, “I Just Want You To Be Happy” by Professors Leanne Rowe, David Bennett and Bruce Tonge.

◊ http://www.sjo.act.edu.au/front_page/ThinkUKnow%20e-Newsletter%20-%20Issue%2006.html aim to provide insight into how young people use the Internet and associated technologies. The site supports parents to bridge the gap between the generations in technology. ThinkUKnow Australia provides parents, carers and teachers with assistance in understanding the digital world in which young people are growing up. You can register online for resources and material to support you and your children.

◊ The Butterfly Effect Blog discusses teen girls and alcohol and body image pressure on young people. See http://enlightenededucation.edublogs.org
Canteen Roster

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday 23rd November</th>
<th>E. Hobby, J. Colley</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 24th November</td>
<td>L. Versi, J. Martinez</td>
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<td>Wednesday 25th November</td>
<td>R. Criniti, D. Hadjisocratous, N. Williamson</td>
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<td>Thursday 26th November</td>
<td>A. O’Neill, D. Poschl, G. Natoli</td>
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<td>Friday 27th November</td>
<td>H. Molina, T. Kristen, J. Gardner</td>
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<td>Monday 30th November</td>
<td>L. Tomelic, F. Oselli</td>
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<td>Tuesday 1st December</td>
<td>L. La Rosa, K. Matti</td>
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<td>Wednesday 2nd December</td>
<td>J. Roccisano, L. Dwarte</td>
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<td>Thursday 3rd December</td>
<td>M. Al safar, T. Severino</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 4th December</td>
<td>J. Lauthier, M. Mudlier</td>
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Dates to Remember

Tuesday 24th November
Parent Helpers “Thank You” Dinner

Thursday 26th November
Year 10 Thanksgiving Mass

Tuesday 1st December
Year 10 Celebration Evening

Tuesday 1st—Friday 4th December
Year 7 & 11, 2010 Uniform Collection
9am—4pm

Friday 4th December
Year 7, 2010 Orientation Day
Final Day for Yrs 7-11 Book Orders

Tuesday 15th December
Picnic Day

St Vincent de Paul Society

good works

Christmas Hamper Appeal

Each year at Good Samaritan, students are given the opportunity to support local families in need through their involvement in the St Vincent De Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal. This appeal calls for non-perishable food items that can be donated to those who are less fortunate in our community. During the week, each pastoral care class received a list of items that were suitable for this collection and students were invited to contribute towards this very worthy cause over the next fortnight. I take this opportunity to thank and congratulate those who have already contributed to the appeal. Your generosity will go a long way towards ensuring many people in our local community will have a much brighter Christmas in 2009.

Mr. D. Cloran
De Paul Coordinator

Pandemic influenza vaccination available for children aged ten years and over

NSW Health reminds parents and caregivers that a vaccination for pandemic influenza A (H1N1), also called swine flu, is available for children aged ten years and over. The vaccine is available free from your general practitioner or Aboriginal Medical Service, although your doctor may charge a consultation fee.

For further information please visit GCCC website
www.goodsamaritan.nsw.edu.au