Dear Parents and Friends of the Community

Last week the college celebrated the annual Opening Mass at OLMC Church Mt Pritchard. The Mass was concelebrated by Bishop Brady and Br Pat and was a wonderful way in which to begin the school year. Students were reminded at the conclusion of Mass of the College theme (which is a challenge to all) “Be witness to the call”. It was stressed once again that it is our hope that every member of our community listens to the call of their God, family, school, friends, peers and community and strives for personal excellence in all that they attempt.

The celebration last Friday also provided a number of aspects of college life. Firstly, it enabled the community to take the opportunity to welcome our new students and staff. We joined together to offer a blessing to each of these people as they begin their Good Samaritan journey. It is often difficult to begin in a new environment and this is one way we were able to display our support for new members of the college.

Secondly, the celebration provided an opportunity to acknowledge our Dux for 2008, Maryann Wright. Maryann certainly displayed her commitment to achieving personal excellence in the Higher School Certificate. I once again congratulate Maryann on achieving a UAI of 95.2 which will enable her to study for a Bachelor of Arts, Media & Communications at University of Sydney.

Finally, on Friday our community was able to acknowledge and congratulate our leaders for 2009. These people have the confidence of their peers and staff and have an opportunity to give some direction to the student body throughout the year.

Last week the college received news that we had been successful in our application for funding under the Federal Government’s National Secondary Schools Computer Fund. The college will now place an order for computers for every student in Year 9. The students will receive their computers during term 2. After consultation and deliberation, we have decided to employ the PC platform for our students. I express my gratitude to the Federal Government for the significant learning opportunity and resource that they have provided to our students.

I remind parents that each year the college produces an Annual Plan which outlines priorities for the year. The Annual Development Plan is drawn from the Strategic Management Plan 2008-2012, which sets out strategic directions over 5 years. Parents can access the annual plan by requesting a copy from the college office or by accessing the college website at: www.goodsamaritan.nsw.edu.au.

Last week the college conducted the Year 11 Assessment evening. At this evening I reminded students of expectations as they approach their senior studies. These expectations centre around core beliefs upon which our college is based. The beliefs impact on, and should be embraced by, all students attending Good Samaritan Catholic College. As we begin the year, I ask parents to be familiar with these beliefs and to reinforce them to their sons and daughters.

The Good Samaritan community:

- Is a community that centres around the person of Jesus Christ and, as such, respects the dignity of all persons.
From the Principal.....

- Holds in the highest regard the opportunity to learn. No one has a right to take that privilege away.
- Expects everyone to recognise the importance of each student reaching their full potential. And expects each person to achieve this goal.
- Is a community where achievement and effort will be acknowledged and affirmed.
- That challenges all to reach out to those in need and stand up for justice and oppose injustice.

God Bless

Mr J Lo Cascio,
Principal

From the Assistant Principal......

number of students afford themselves of the opportunity to meet with these teachers to receive additional assistance. Students who remain after school to meet with teachers must have made these arrangements well in advance. It is also clear expectation that students who remain after school do so with their parents knowledge and consent. This is ordinarily indicated through a note in the diary. Further, students are expected to remain with the teacher for the duration of the session. It is not acceptable for students to leave the school property either prior to and before the conclusion of any after school classes.

Detentions
Procedures and expectations regarding school detentions are quite clear. Parents will receive written notification of the detention in advance of the date. After school detentions have ordinarily been held on a Wednesday afternoon. This year students may be required to serve their punishment on alternative days, depending upon circumstances. In any case, it is the responsibility of the student and their parent / carer to make the necessary arrangements for transport home at the completion of the detention. In exceptional circumstances a change of date for the detention may be negotiated, however, sufficient advance notice of this request is required. In those small number of cases where a student fails to attend their detention on the nominated date without a sufficiently valid reason then an additional detention will be issued. Failure to attend these subsequent detentions may result in the imposition of more lengthy detentions or, in the more exceptional cases, internal suspension. Whilst the issuing of a detention is not intended to inconvenience families, the reality is that this may be an outcome of a student being required to attend an afternoon detention. Students must therefore understand and be prepared to accept the consequences of their actions.

Vehicle Access
The security gates at the college were installed for securing the property and, importantly, to improve student safety. These gates limit access to the college grounds by both vehicles and pedestrians during school hours. Parents are reminded of the arrangements in place for dropping off and collecting students by private vehicles in the morning and afternoon periods.

- Parents wishing to drop students off in the morning are required to turn right at the main roundabout into the bus bay with students alighting from the vehicle in the bus bay.
- In the afternoon, access to the college bus bay for vehicles wishing to pick students up will commence after 3.10pm. No vehicles will be allowed in the college grounds before this time unless on school business. Students should be collected from the bus bay area and not in the roundabout as this blocks other traffic.
- The main roundabout at the entrance to the college will be “no stopping” at all times. Parents may consider the merits of dropping students off and picking them up outside the college in order to reduce congestion and increase safety.

Your support and cooperation in this important matter is greatly appreciated.

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**Notification of Measles and Chickenpox**

One of the students at Good Samaritan is currently receiving chemotherapy treatment for leukaemia. As it is not a contagious disease, the student participates actively in the day to day school program without major limitations. A major concern, however, is that if this student develops measles or chickenpox they can become seriously ill. I am seeking the cooperation of all members of the school community in preventing this situation. If your child has, or may have measles or chickenpox, I would ask that you please do not send them to school and to notify me through the school office as soon as possible. Thank you in anticipation.

**Motivational Media Presentation**

On Thursday, 26th February all students will be involved in attending a session at the College entitled *Rebound*. Presented by the Motivational Media group, this audiovisual presentation has a focus on building resilience that is, increasing the capacity of individuals to bounce back from setbacks. In subsequent weeks there will be opportunities for follow-up of the issues raised in the presentation through the pastoral care classes.

**Absences**

Any student who is absent from school for part or all of a day must bring a note to explain their absence. This should be brought to school and given to their pastoral care teacher immediately upon their return to school. Notes are necessary to accurately maintain the class roll in accordance with requirements.

**Swimming Carnival**

The annual college swimming carnival will be held on **Friday, 27th February**. This is a compulsory school day and an important community event. As such, student attendance at this event is recorded on the front cover of the Semester One school report. A letter with more details about the carnival will be sent home separately.

**After School Classes**

As parents are aware, many of the college staff generously give of their own time after hours to assist students. This is entirely voluntary and not a requirement of their employment. A good
From the Assistant Principal

Several dates that were published in the last newsletter were incorrect. The correct dates for these events are as follows:
- Ash Wednesday: Wed 25th February
- College Swimming Carnival: Fri 27th February
- School Certificate Exams: Mon 9th – 11th November
- Year 9 Camp: Wed 11th – 13th November

Mr P Brooks
Assistant Principal

Parenting Corner

Dear Parents

I’ve noticed our line at the front office for latecomers has not diminished. So I thought these words of Parent Educator, Michael Grose could be of some help before bad habits form.

GETTING KIDS TO SCHOOL ON TIME

“Come on Billy! Get a move on. School starts in ten minutes and you’re not even dressed yet!”

If this scenario sounds familiar then you are not alone. Anecdotal evidence suggests that getting children to school on time can be one of the most difficult tasks for parents.

How can you get your dawdling kids out the door without yelling yourself hoarse? Here are a few techniques and ideas for you to try to get your punctually-challenged children to school on time.

ESTABLISH A MORNING ROUTINE. Make sure your children know what is expected of them in the morning and also what you will do. Resist nagging but be willing to take them to school even if they haven’t fully prepared for the day.

IDENTIFY AND REMOVE DISTRACTIONS SUCH AS TELEVISION. If the children are regular watchers before school change the routine and keep the T.V. off.

TEACH SOME OF THE BASICS OF TIME MANAGEMENT. The average adult underestimates by about 25 per cent the time it takes to do various jobs. Encourage older children to estimate how long it takes to do activities such as getting ready in the morning. Then they can measure the time taken to do these tasks and compare their estimates with real time.

ARRIVE AT SCHOOL TEN MINUTES EARLY rather than be there right on time. This works well for perpetual latecomers, whether young or old.

MODEL A GOOD ROUTINE. It’s pointless expecting children to be organised in the morning if you are in a muddle yourself. Set a good example by being as methodical as possible and avoid sleeping in unless your children are so organised that they get you breakfast in bed. And pigs might fly as well!!!

Good luck – for the vast majority this is not a problem. So congratulations too!

Sr Marj

Parenting Corner

Year 8 2009 Leaders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>House</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Boys</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chisholm</td>
<td>Alyssa Pacchirotta</td>
<td>Mitchell Reylin</td>
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<tr>
<td>De Paul</td>
<td>Rochelle Abbate</td>
<td>John Ciarleglio</td>
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<td>Natasha Serrano</td>
<td>Marco Beretta</td>
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<td>Merici</td>
<td>Moreen Jajou</td>
<td>James Hereen</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Kathryn De Guzman</td>
<td>Matthew Froio</td>
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Year 9 2009 Leaders

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<td>Chisholm</td>
<td>Kristy Walker</td>
<td>Jonathon Potter</td>
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<td>De Paul</td>
<td>Annelise Fegatilli</td>
<td>Sheron Edrisinghe</td>
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<td>Josh Espino</td>
<td>Shedona Pulumberit</td>
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<td>MacKillop</td>
<td>Dominic Katra</td>
<td>Jessica Czaszar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merici</td>
<td>Marina Pavic</td>
<td>Jake Ingle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Polding</td>
<td>Olivia</td>
<td>Michael De Martin</td>
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Year 10 2009 Leaders

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<td>Chisholm</td>
<td>Carley Merrick</td>
<td>Felipe Oyarzun</td>
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<td>De Paul</td>
<td>Brydie Cooper</td>
<td>Claudio Carrasco</td>
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<td>La Salle</td>
<td>Dalena Tran</td>
<td>Aldric Angeles</td>
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<td>MacKillop</td>
<td>Veronica Nguyen</td>
<td>Michael Sposari</td>
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<td>Merici</td>
<td>Bianca Adattini</td>
<td>Salvatore La Rosa</td>
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<td>Rebecca Arcuri</td>
<td>Genevieve Fonti</td>
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Year 11 2009 Leaders

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<td>Tim Morozoff</td>
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<td>Steven Catanea</td>
<td>Giuseppe Tummarello</td>
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<td>Daniel Sobesiak</td>
<td>Duane Marquez</td>
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Year 12 Senior Leaders

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<tr>
<td>Diana Macri</td>
<td>Adam Cosgrove</td>
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<tr>
<td>Danielle McPherson</td>
<td>Daniel Arcuri</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natasha Perre</td>
<td>Anthony Thepsombandith</td>
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**Children and Internet Abuse**

*Each year it is important to remind parents of the dangers associated with young people using the internet unsupervised. Mrs Rushbrook, the college counselor, has compiled the following information for parents.*

Whilst the internet is a valuable resource for our children to be able to do homework and socialize, there is concern over the risks to our young people. Some concerns over internet use are as follows:

- Children may be exposed to inappropriate material on the internet, such as sexual and violent material.
- The internet has promoted the pornography industry as it probably provides the largest collection of pornography currently available, including sexual chat channels, pictures and text (Holmes and Holmes 2002).
- A recent press release from the Australian Minister for Justice and Customs reports that about 85 per cent of child pornography seized in Australia is distributed via the internet (Ellison 2003).
- Australian research, which sampled 200 children, found that 38 per cent of boys and two per cent of girls aged 16 and 17 years deliberately use the Internet to see sexually explicit material (Flood and Hamilton 2003a).
- It was also found that 84 per cent of surveyed boys and 60 per cent of girls had unwanted exposure to sexual material (Flood and Hamilton 2003b).
- There is a discrepancy between desired and undesired exposure, particularly for girls (two per cent desired and 60 per cent undesired) which is of considerable concern, as it would appear that exposure is difficult to avoid.

This does not mean that we should panic and not allow our children access to the internet but it does mean that we can take steps to lessen the potentially harmful side effects. This means understanding how predators operate, how to spot if your child is being targeted and setting the computer up in such a way as to safeguard our children’s safety when we are not around.

**How do online predators work?**

- Predators establish contact with young people through conversations in chat rooms, instant messaging, e-mail, or discussion boards.
- Many teens use peer support online forums to deal with their problems. Predators often go to these online areas to look for vulnerable victims.
- Online predators try to gradually seduce their targets through attention, affection, kindness, and even gifts, and often devote considerable time, money, and energy to this effort.
- They listen to and sympathize with young people’s problems. They also try to ease young people's inhibitions by gradually introducing sexual content into their conversations or by showing them sexually explicit material.
- Some predators use a more direct approach which may include harassment or stalking. Predators may also evaluate the young people they meet online for future face-to-face contact.
- Predators pretend to be from the same age group of the children and in the case of teens they often are.

**How can you tell if your child is being targeted?**

It is possible that your child is the target of an online predator if:

- **Your child or teen spends a great deal of time online.** Most children who are victims of online predators spend a lot of time online, particularly in chat rooms, and may close the doors to their rooms and be secretive about what they do when they work on their computer.
- **You find pornography on the family computer.** Predators often use pornography to sexually victimize children.
- **Your teen received phone calls from people you don’t know, or makes calls (sometimes long distance) to numbers you don’t recognize.** After establishing contact with your child online, some online predators may try to contact young people to engage in inappropriate conversation, or to try to set up a real-world, face-to-face meeting.
- **DO NOT ALLOW YOUR CHILD TO MEET A STRANGER THEY HAVE MET ONLINE, IN PERSON, WITHOUT YOUR SUPERVISION.**
- **Your teen received mail, gifts, or packages from someone you don’t know.**
- **Your teen withdraws from family and friends, or quickly turns the computer monitor off or changes the screen if an adult enters the room.** Online predators work hard to drive wedges between young people and their families.
- **Your child is using someone else’s online account.** Even young people who don’t have access to the internet at home may meet an offender while online at a friend’s house or at another public place, even the library.
How to protect your teenagers on the internet?

Here are some helpful hints to follow to minimize internet abuse:

- Install computer software programs that would help you block sexual implicit materials such as photographs and videos that are sent by an online predator to entice your teenager.
- Install an Internet connection only on a computer that is found in a common part of the house such as your living room.
- Do not allow your child to have access to a webcam as this has been found to be the main way for abusers to transmit acts over the internet.
- Give your child a curfew with regards to using the Internet. This way, you minimize the time that they spend on the Internet surfing.
- Spend more time with your teenager. Teenagers who are most likely to be targeted by online predators are those who feel lonely and distant from their parents.
- Install key logging software programs on your family’s computer. This way, you would be able to monitor everything and anything typed by your teenager, including the kinds of email that they receive and send.
- Encourage your teenager never to give out their personal information to anyone that they meet over the Internet.
- If gifts are being mailed to your home for your teenager from someone you do not know, question where they are from.
- If your teenager does express their concern about someone they had met over the Internet, do not tell them that it is their fault. Instead, support them and report this matter to the proper authorities immediately.

Hopefully, this has given you some ideas of how to minimize the potential in your home for internet abuse. If you have any concerns please don’t hesitate to follow-up these concerns either with the college or the authorities.

GOOD SAMARITAN’S INAUGURAL COLLEGE PLAYS

A Year and a day and Ruckus in the Garden

This year, Good Samaritan Catholic College will hold two inaugural school plays. Several performances, both matinee and evening will be held in weeks seven and eight of this term in the Performing Arts Studio. The plays will be performed by students across year’s eight to twelve. Students have been preparing since August last year and are currently at the final stages of rehearsal. The following is a synopsis of the two plays.

A year and a day narrated by a traveling storyteller is loosely based on the theme of Romeo and Juliet. The musician and the singer of two rival tribes defy their law by falling in love. With the help of the ‘critters’ they overcome the unjust rulings of their leaders. The play draws on themes such as the supernatural, prejudice, dishonesty, war, power and undying love.

Ruckus in the garden outlines the feud between two schools, Riverdale and St Nectan’s and is set in a mystical garden. The main character Stanley undergoes harsh treatment as he tries to stop the feud between the warring schools. The story follows a switching of the elements as two characters experience life in each others shoes. The play explores the concept of self and inner beauty while showing us the power of the individual.

Cast and crew invite members of the College community to be a part of the production of the plays including set and costume design. Parents willing to assist in any of these areas can contact Ms Wright on 9825 9955.

We look forward to seeing members of our College community support the Drama students by coming along to the play performances. Details of play times and ticket prices will be sent home shortly.

Thank you

CAPA staff and students

CAPA—Music Enrichment 2009

In 2009, students are invited to take part in various enrichment programs aimed at extending them in the areas of music performance and appreciation. These programs will be in the form of individual tuition, group tuition and a concert band ensemble.

Music tuition will be available through the College in the areas of piano, guitar, bass guitar and drums. In addition to this, a concert band made up of woodwind, brass and various other orchestral instruments will begin mid way through the year.

Tuition is open to all year 7 to 10 students and those students currently enrolled in senior elective music. The concert band will be open to all students in the College and parents will be invited to attend an information session regarding the cost and hire of concert band instruments and tuition as the date draws near.

Parents and students are invited to contact Mrs Popovic or Ms Benjamin to collect an information package, which outlines fees and procedures for enrolment.
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

CANTEEN ROSTER

| MONDAY  16th Feb | J. Short, F. Oselli |
| TUESDAY 17th Feb | B. Boustany |
| WEDNESDAY 18th Feb | A. Pipicella, R. Saliba |
| THURSDAY 19th Feb | A-M O’Neill, L. Parke, D. Poschl |
| FRIDAY 20th Feb | T. Inzitari, A. Morozoff, M. Mudaliar |
| MONDAY 23rd Feb | A. Testa, M. Macri, L. Tomelic |
| TUESDAY 24th Feb | D. Ingle, L. La Rosa, L. Pacchiarotta |
| WEDNESDAY 25th Feb | J. Vartuli, N. Pulitano, G. Baretta |
| THURSDAY 26th Feb | S. Lichaa, H. Molina, G. Bartolo |
| FRIDAY 27th Feb | Swimming Carnival |

DATES TO REMEMBER

16th February
Year 7 Vaccinations

18th February
Year 10 Parent & Student Information Evening

25th February
Ash Wednesday

27th February
Swimming Carnival

2009 GCC
OPENING MASS