Dear Parents and Friends of the Community

Recently the college community acknowledged our high achieving students from the 2008 Higher School Certificate and School Certificate, at our assembly. Each student presented to the student body, achieved a Band 6 grade in one or more of their subjects. Achievement of a Band 6 result means the student achieved a result of over 90% in that subject. This was an opportunity for us to recognize this outstanding achievement and to celebrate this success with these students. I personally acknowledge and congratulate these students on their commitment to their studies and their willingness to “Be witness to the call” in 2008. A list of Band 6 achieving students is included later in this newsletter.

Last week Mr Chris Hayes, the local member for Werriwa, was the keynote speaker at the College Senior Leaders Day held at the Liverpool Catholic Club. Mr Hayes spoke to our leaders about the true calling of leadership, in which leaders are called to serve and to challenge individuals to honourable goals. During the day, our leaders built on what had been said and took advantage of the opportunity to set goals both individually and for the school during 2009. The students involved were most impressive with their maturity and the sense of commitment they displayed towards their roles. I am sure that each of them will rise to the occasion during the year and the community will benefit from their leadership. I thank the students for their involvement and Mr Costin and Mr Cloran for the organization of such a valuable day.

On Friday 6th February our college, similar to many other schools, collected funds to support those people who suffered the devastation of the Victorian Bushfires. In one day, the community was able to raise over $ 3000 to support the victims. I thanked the students for their generosity at our recent assembly, but I also reiterated that many of our fellow human beings suffer continuously, and at times, we forget this fact due to the ongoing nature of this suffering.

This reminder is timely as we begin the season of Lent. Lent, which began on Wednesday, affords the opportunity to reflect on our approach to life and how we should reach out to comfort others. I reminded students that during Lent, many of us can make a commitment to Caritas in order to help others. The theme for Caritas in 2009 is “An environment to grow in”. For those in need, this encompasses not only the physical conditions, but all the circumstances that surround them, as they strive to live their lives to the full. We can all live fuller lives, by reaching out to others and helping them, not only in Lent, but by making a commitment to support others at all times. This Lent can be the beginning of such a commitment.

On March 21 the college will be conducting our second Open Day following the success of the Open Day in 2008. The purpose of the Open Day is to highlight our Catholic school at the beginning of Catholic Schools Week, to allow prospective parents to access the school and to gain greater insights into Good Samaritan. Parents of students already attending the college are also invited to view their children’s school. I extend an invitation to parents of either future students or present students to attend the Open Day and to find out more about Good Samaritan Catholic College.

God Bless

Mr J Lo Cascio
Principal
**From the Assistant Principal**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Silver Awards</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Congratulations to the following students who were presented with their Silver Award at the college assembly last week.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year 8</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sinead Cummins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erika Brocklehurst</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Congratulations</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congratulations to <strong>Joseph Ragusa</strong> and <strong>Carina Bilotta</strong> of Year 9 and to <strong>Sam La Rosa</strong> and <strong>Sarah Napoletano</strong> of Year 10 who were selected to be interviewed last week by ex-student and College Dux for 2008, Maryann Wright. Maryann is currently completing work experience with the Liverpool Leader newspaper and she is contributing to a feature article on student opinions about the recent NSW government decision to increase the compulsory school leaving age. Look out for the article and student comments in a coming issue of the newspaper.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Homework</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>There has been some concern expressed by parents about homework- the type and amount that students should be engaged in each night. All students should be engaged in an allocated time of work at home each night. I would encourage all parents to ensure that a period of time is set aside each night for this to be done. This work could be homework set by teachers, review of work completed in class, preparation of revision notes, or preparation reading for class the following day. To act as a guideline for the amount of homework that students should be engaged in, can I highlight the following from our College handbook- Homework Policy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year 7 &amp; 8</strong> - At least one hour of homework and/or home study per night. <strong>Year 9 &amp; 10</strong> - At least two hours of homework and/or home study per night. <strong>Year 11 &amp; 12</strong> - At least two and a half to three hours per subject per week.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bus Transport</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The two bus companies which provide student transport services for the college, have advised us that they have determined which specific students need to be travelling on particular buses based on the routes and the number of students on each bus. Students travelling on the incorrect bus, may find themselves in the position of being refused entry to the bus, or may be required to pay for the trip. Parents are advised if they have concerns regarding this arrangement, they will need to contact the bus companies directly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mr P Brooks, Assistant Principal</strong></td>
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**Lent**

*God of life,*

*May we be continuously aware that our world is not balanced, fair, just, or peaceful. Confident in our faith, may we also recognise that through prayer, fasting and almsgiving this Lent, we can participate in righting relationships, in transforming our world and in seeking justice. May we all aspire not to have more, but to be more this Lenten season and beyond.*

*We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

One of the key efforts that we make during Lent is almsgiving or charity. For generation upon generations people have performed acts of charity to demonstrate that they have turned their lives into ones that act in love. The best acts of love are those which are able to make a lasting impact on the lives of the recipients. Below I have included a table that shows how your works of love can change the lives of people.

**How your support helps. It only takes a little to make a big change.**

**Here's what your dollars could help Caritas do:**

- $1.30 could provide one banana tree plantlet for a subsistence farming family in Uganda
- $10 could provide 35 tree seedlings to reforest a drought affected region in tribal India
- $20 could provide a Bolivian child with two chickens and skills to rear them to increase family nutrition
- $50 could support a young Indigenous Australian to learn skills in youth work for the benefit of their whole community
- $80 could provide a bicycle for a farmer in Uganda to transport produce and facilitate on-farm trainings
- $100 could provide seeds for four family vegetable gardens for one year in Bolivia
- $200 could provide training packs for ten ‘street boys’ to learn organic farming in Papua New Guinea
- $500 could support an Indigenous Indonesian to advocate on behalf of their community at an international environment meeting or to a multinational company whose operations are affecting their livelihood
- $1000 could provide a subsistence farmer group in Uganda with a cow to be bred and shared among members
- $1485 could provide a marginalised community in India with skills and tools to build a village pond to retain rainwater in times of drought.

**The Community acknowledges academic excellence**

Congratulations to Band 6 achievers in the 2008 School Certificate and Higher School Certificate. A Band 6 is the top achievement level awarded by the Board of Studies and we celebrated 29 School Certificate and 27 Higher School Certificate Band 6 results – these are our best results at the college.

**Yr 12 2008 BAND 6 ACHIEVERS**

Elyce Caluccio, Vinfred Concepcion, Phillip Do, Andrew El-Zakhem, Silva Hanna, Matthew Hobby, Sandra Jajou, Jess Labuguen, Peter Li, Vivian Phantharangsi, Tiana Romeo, Maiko Sentina, Michael Stikovic, Nhi Tran, Natasha Tummarello, Cathy Virtu, Maryann Wright

**YR 10 2008 BAND 6 ACHIEVERS**

Andrea Brocklehurst, Leah Brown, Patrick Coria, Louise Doculara, George El-Boustani, Ryan Evans, Chanel Gronowski, Rebecca Hunt, Kristen Kuan, Joshua Leombruni, Alana Licata, Flora Mansour, Chantelle Monjo, Mariano Salvati, Stacey Siro, Sarah Spadaro, Alyssa Suyko, Joel Treneer, Angelo Urso
Catholic school enrolments continue to grow

Enrolments in Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Sydney have continued to grow in 2009. Recent census data indicates that there is a general increase of around five hundred students from 2008, with Kindergarten enrolments being particularly strong. These figures indicate clearly that even in these challenging economic times, Catholic schools remain popular, and highly valued. Strong results in national and state-based assessments in 2008, the pegging of school fee increases to the CPI, as well as a guarantee to parents that no Catholic child will be denied a Catholic education due to economic hardship, are continuing to provide comfort and assurance.

Around 20% of all students in NSW are educated in Catholic schools. That figure is even higher in the Archdiocese of Sydney. The continued growth in enrolment numbers says much about the quality of the education that children in Catholic schools receive.

Catholic Schools Weeks 2009 is not far away (22-28 March). This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our many achievements at Good Samaritan Catholic College and the wonderful opportunities that the students receive here. There certainly is much to celebrate.

Sisters of Charity Outreach

With our motto “Compassion in Action” Sisters of Charity Outreach is presently recruiting volunteers for its volunteer based organisation with diverse services, Country Care Link, Court Support, Visit Programs (Eastern Area and South West), Parent Support Program and Safe Haven. Volunteers also assist with our shop, raffle and market days. Training program (7 units of 3 hrs) is essential and begins March 11th (evenings) at Darlinghurst and May 18 & 20 (mornings) at Liverpool and Darlinghurst. See our website for explanation of volunteer roles in our Services.

www.sistersofcharityoutreach.com.au

Enquiries or Applications Ph 98225980 or 8382 6430

the green gecko project

Last year, our college supported young people in the “Green Gecko Project” in Thailand. This week the college received thanks from the people involved in the project.

“Awoon Tom Tom” (Thank you Big Big) to

Good Samaritan Catholic College

For your gecko love and support, from all the green gecko gang

Parenting Corner

I am writing this column after being so inspired from looking at our NATION’S DAY OF MOURNING television broadcast from Melbourne. It hopefully offered some SOLACE and COMFORT to these poor people, who have lost everything in Australia’s worst peace time tragedy. I thought all the ritual, speeches, songs, music and poetry gave much food for thought, reflection and prayer and at many moments, it moved me to tears.

Three words mentioned by all of our speakers and emphasised by our Prime Minister, were COURAGE, COMPASSION and RESILIENCE and these probably sum up the values that you, as parents, and we as a School Community, hope to instil in our adolescents, as they make their way through life. No one knows what is ahead in our life’s journey, but we can be assured that help is available, and this has surely been tried and tested during the last traumatic weeks and is still ongoing for the people of some places in Victoria and up North, where we have had the recent floods.

During the coming week, our students are going to see a MEDIA PRESENTATION on RESILIENCE, that gift that helps a person deal with life’s knocks and setbacks, both big and small and it will be a worthwhile exercise to discuss this with them.

As a youngster growing up, I recall visiting an Aunt who had this inscription in bold letters framed on her wall. I often recall it:

LIFE IS MAINLY FROTH AND BUBBLE
TWO THINGS STAND LIKE STONE
KINDNESS IN ANOTHER’S TROUBLE
COURAGE IN YOUR OWN

May our compassionate, loving God give us and all, for whom we pray, the courage and help they need at this time in their lives.

Sr Marj
History came to life at Good Samaritan Catholic College this week in Year 11 Ancient History. Students from Mr Wheeler’s Ancient History class had the opportunity to excavate artefacts from plaster moulds and were required to reconstruct History. Mr Teuma’s class had the experience of an understanding of what we can learn from studying ancient human remains and their usefulness in learning from the past.
World Maths Day

World Maths Day is an international event where students compete against people from Australia and all over the world in 60 second mental arithmetic games. The aim of this event is for students of all ages to answer as many questions as possible during a 48 hour period. During 2008 a world record of 182,455,169 questions were answered correctly during this time frame.

This year, the college is ready once again to participate in this prestigious event which officially begins on Tuesday, 3rd March at 10pm and concludes at 10pm on Thursday 5th March. However, practice mode is now open and students can log in and start preparing for the official event. Currently, GCC has 6 classes in the list of top 50 high schools in the world: Mr Georgiou’s Year 10 Maths class, Miss Boggs’ Year 9 Maths class, Mrs Hewitt’s Year 7 Maths class, Mrs Corner’s Year 8 Maths class, and Mrs Cook’s Year 10 and 11 Maths classes. Special mention goes to both Shedona Pulumbarit and Mark Bawalan for answering tens of thousands of questions between them. If any parents would like further information on this event or would like to participate they should contact Mr Georgiou or Mrs Cook at the college.

Pi Day

On the 14th March (or 3.14 in accordance with the US dating system), pi day will be celebrated world wide. This year, GCC will be holding its own “Pi Day” on Friday 13th March. Students are encouraged to recite pi to as many decimal places as they can. The current world record is 100,000 decimal places. Our current school record is held by Luen Samonte who memorised and recited pi to 214 decimal places in 2008.

All students are encouraged to participate in this event and attempt to break the school record. This event will take place in rooms C17-C22 at lunch time on the 13th March 2009.

Mr Georgiou
Mathematics Department

School Plays – Rehearsals in Full Swing!

“A Year and a Day” and “Ruckus in the Garden”

Performances of the two plays ‘Ruckus in the Garden’ and ‘A Year and a Day’ are going to be held in weeks 7 and 8 of this term. Rehearsals are currently very intensive with students staying to rehearse after school until 5.00pm four days a week. Ms Wright is busily directing the plays and cast members are coping with the pressure of remembering their lines and developing their characters. A team of teachers is assisting with the making of costumes, sets and props. Other teachers and classes have been designing posters, programs and tickets.

The school plays are a community event and the involvement of many people helps to build excitement and also encourages the performers, who have been working hard for a long time to rehearse the plays. All they need now is an audience.

Please come along and support the students in the performances of the plays.

Ruckus in the garden

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>11th March</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venue</td>
<td>Performing Arts Block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ticket cost</td>
<td>$5 each</td>
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</tbody>
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Tickets will be on sale starting next week. Watch out for details in the daily notices. Numbers will be limited for seating so pre-purchase is necessary.

A Year and a Day

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>18th March</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venue</td>
<td>Performing Arts Block</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ticket cost</td>
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</table>

On the 23rd February, 10 music students from the Year 12 Music class attended a CASPA workshop at De La Salle/Bethlehem College, Ashfield.

The workshop gave insight to students in approaching aural and practical examinations for the upcoming HSC.

After a fierce and difficult battle over melodic contour with many other schools, Good Samaritan received an honourable mention for their efforts in modelling melodic material into graphic notation.

Well done to us!

Grace Gilvear & Anthony Thepsombandith

School Play snapshots
**CANTEEN ROSTER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Staff Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>2nd March</td>
<td>T. Kristen, P. Puttenger, M. Boateng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td>3rd March</td>
<td>C. Ienco, L. Versi, J. Martinez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>4th March</td>
<td>J. Roccisano, N. Bodagh, N. Matti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td>5th March</td>
<td>G. Gerrish, R. Origlia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>6th March</td>
<td>A. Morozoff, S. Orellana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>9th March</td>
<td>F. Oselli, E. Hobby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td>10th March</td>
<td>D. Toro, A. Da Wood, G. Natoli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WED</td>
<td>11th March</td>
<td>R. Criniti, D. Hadjisocratous, L. Lauthier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td>12th March</td>
<td>M. Alsafar, T. Severino, C. Byrne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>13th March</td>
<td>R. Parker, S. Frijo, A. Garcia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Silver Award Winners**

Some of our 2008 Band 6 Student Achievers

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- **Wednesday 4th March**
  - Year 7 Geography excursion
  - Social Justice Group excursion

- **Wednesday 11th March**
  - Ruckus in a Garden GSCC Drama Performance

- **Wednesday 18th March**
  - A Year and a Day GSCC Drama Performance

- **Friday 20th March**
  - Pupil Free Day—Staff Development Day

- **Saturday 21st March**
  - COLLEGE OPEN DAY 10am—2pm