Dear Parents and Friends of the Community,

Welcome back to Term 2 and I trust everyone had a holy Easter and a restful holiday. This term certainly holds its challenges in many areas of college life. One of the significant challenges for students in Years 7 to 11 will be their half yearly exams, however, exams are not the only indicators of achievement and students will need to be committed to their school work up to and beyond the examination period. As always I encourage all students to strive to do their best in all that they attempt.

This week students in Years 10, 11 and 12 were able to undertake a study skills program, which was run by Enhanced Learning Educational Services. The program enabled students to enhance their study skills and to develop confidence in their study techniques. There will be a follow-up evening on 13th May for parents and students and I encourage all parents of students in Years 10 to 12 to attend with their son or daughter to gain maximum benefit from the experience.

This term, students in Years 7 and 9 will undertake their NAPLAN tests on 12th, 13th and 14th of May. This provides the students, parents and the teachers the opportunity to assess student progress in numeracy, reading, language conventions and writing. The results will be available later in the year and this will give teachers the opportunity to respond to student needs where appropriate.

During the last week of Term 1, I received notification that the college had been successful in its application for the Federal Government’s “Pride in Schools” grants. The college received funding for three projects: shade cloth over the quadrangle bordered by the library and B block, the construction of a new sports storage shed and refurbishment of a number of classrooms. The total of this generous grant is $200,000 which will certainly add to the comfort of students and the efficient functioning of the college.

On May 25th, the college will undertake the process of Cyclic Review. This procedure occurs once every 5 years and involves the evaluation of the college’s learning journey. The review will necessitate a team of educators coming to the college to assess our progress and the proposed directions that the college will take in the future. To date surveys of teachers, students, parents and pastors have been conducted to gain insights of interested parties. It is hoped that the process will allow us to assess our progress to date and be confident in our future directions.

Congratulations to Mark Bawalan who was announced as a Gold Award recipient at the final Assembly last term. This award is a reflection of Mark’s commitment to college life.

Last Wednesday the college community came together for our own tribute to the brave men and women who we stop to honour on Anzac Day.

It is these people who sacrificed so much to give us the freedom we enjoy in this wonderful country. Perhaps as a nation we can draw from their example and open our hearts and our land to those less fortunate than ourselves, especially refugees. In doing so we would be living the message of Christ and following the ANZAC example. I share the following ANZAC prayer for reflection:

Lord our God, boundless provider,  
source of peace that the world cannot give,  
kindly hear our constant prayer for those who bore witness to  
your own fidelity by giving their lives for those they loved.

Resurrect them in our true homeland and perfect that peace  
for which they longed and died.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives  
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one  
Amen

God Bless

Mr J. Lo Cascio, Principal

GOOD SAMARITAN CATHOLIC COLLEGE
HINCHINBROOK

COLLEGE THEME 2009: “Be Witness To The Call”
From the Assistant Principal

School Photographs
The college will be conducting its annual photo day on Thursday 7th May. All students will be having an individual and class photograph taken. A personally labelled envelope will be going home with the newsletter. The envelopes must be returned on the day of the photographs whether students are purchasing photos or not. Anyone wishing to have family photos taken may obtain a separate envelope from the college office prior to the photo day.

Students will be required to be in full winter uniform, including blazers, for the photographs.

Please ensure that students have the correct amount of money for the envelope as the office will be unable to give change.

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Yr 12 Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews – Wed 20th May
Year 12 reports will be distributed from the college office on this afternoon and interviews conducted with subject teachers. Students are asked to arrange an interview time with their teachers. Interviews will be conducted between 3.30 and 7pm. Students are required to be in full school uniform when attending the interviews.

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Yr 7 Immunisation Program
The next phase of the school immunisation program will occur on Monday, 4th May. All students in Year 7 will be offered the second dose of the Varicella (Chicken Pox) vaccine. Also, as part of the National Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Vaccination Program, female students in Years 7 will be offered the HPV vaccine which offers protection against cervical cancer. Detailed information was sent home in Term 1 and consent forms were also distributed and returned. Parents are reminded that a course of HPV vaccine requires 3 doses and parents/carers have consented for a full course.

Once again, the nurses from the Sydney South West Area Health Service will be conducting the vaccination program. They will be in attendance throughout the day to administer the vaccinations and to monitor students. Parents who have previously provided their consent for the vaccinations and who wish to subsequently withdraw their consent for any reason should do so in writing addressed to the Principal.

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Uniform
Students and their parents are reminded of the requirements of the College winter uniform. As the cooler months approach, students are to have only white undergarments under their school shirts and blouses. The undergarment should not be visible on the sleeves. All students, except senior girls, are required to wear a tie. Scarves are permissible in white and black only and all students are required to wear the college blazer to and from school.

Mr R Grech
Acting Assistant Principal

Parenting Corner
Dear Parents
It’s my turn again to reflect with you this term on some of the important issues involving you and your children and to remind you that YOU are the principal educators of your children.

These days, we talk often of people being ‘legends’, ‘heroes’ and ‘role models’. In my eyes (and experience), none more so than parents of young children. They expect so much of you and are disappointed when you fail (occasionally) to live up to their expectations.

Even so, don’t despair as children are extremely resilient and, providing you don’t continually let them down, will quickly place their trust in you again.

Easter reminds us that we place our trust in the greatest hero and role model of all time. He provided his disciples and followers with a new vision of how to live life to the full which inspired them and gave them direction.

Yet, in his death on the Cross he probably seemed like a failure and His followers may have felt let down. The story and its immediate consequences seem very human.

The resurrection changed all that; hope was restored and they received new life. As Christians, we hang onto this hope.

At times, it’s much the same with your children. Trust—failure—hope—renewed faith and trust in you.

God bless and happy parenting.

Br Colin

Mother’s Day Mass
On Friday the 8th May at 5.30pm, Br Pat will be celebrating a Mother’s Day Mass in the P Block. A letter will be going home to your son/daughter with a detachable return to indicate numbers. All mothers and grandmothers along with their children are welcome to this wonderful celebration.

Let us come together to pray with Mary in thanking God for the wonderful gift of life as lived through our mothers.

Mr P Kingsman
REC Coordinator
**NAPLAN Examinations**

The National Program for Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) examinations will be held from Tuesday 12th May to Thursday 14th May for Year 7 and 9 students. Students can prepare for these examinations in a number of ways.

1. **Past Papers**
   
   The official website contains the 2008 NAPLAN papers. Students can download these papers and use them as a guide to determine the format of the papers, and the types of questions that can be asked. The following URL is a web link to the past papers section on the NAPLAN website.
   

2. **Sample Papers**
   
   Several organisations are releasing a range of sample papers. The official NAPLAN website contains a sample paper of each examination. These can be found using the following web link. http://www.naplan.edu.au/test_samples/test_samples.html

   The Mathletics organisation contains free sample numeracy papers which the students can use. These papers are modelled on both the format and the styles of questions students will encounter in their formal NAPLAN examinations. These papers can be found at http://www.mathletics.com.au/naplan/

The official NAPLAN website contains further information such as the exam timetable, as well as a section containing information for parents and carers. It is essential that students start preparing for these examinations not only in their classes at school but also at home. The above websites will hopefully prove to be a valuable tool for them to use, especially during their Easter holiday break. Further information regarding the NAPLAN exams will be dispatched at a later date.

Details of testing times and requirements have been sent home to all parents with children in Year 7 and Year 9 this year.

The NAPLAN Team 2009

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**Cyber bullying safety tips**

Myspace Australia has launched new cyber bullying safety tips and announced a partnership with *Girlfriend Magazine* and Boost Mobile to promote a new online “code of conduct” to combat cyber bullying.

Designed to educate and promote awareness about cyber bullying, these initiatives complement the online social destination’s broader internet safety education program which sees MySpace at the forefront of Australian Communications and Media Authority’s (ACMA) national campaign to give all Australians the tools necessary to combat cyber bullying.

The Internet Safety Technical Task Force’s Research’s Advisory Board, based in the US, recently produced an extensive report which highlighted that more parental intervention and guidance is needed, as cyber bullying usually happens between persons already known to each other and that technology alone is unlikely to solve the problem of bullying.

**Safety tips**

The technology on MySpace allows users to block other users, they simply need to click “Block User” to prevent a known bully from contacting them. It also allows users to conceal their “Online Now” status, so users can be on MySpace but it doesn’t make this known to the wider community.

MySpace profiles can either be public or private spaces in their entirety or users can select some parts of their profile to be public and parts to be private. To secure privacy, select “Customize Profile” from the Profile dropdown menu and set the privacy level for each module individually (Comments, Friends, blog, etc.) or select it for all profile modules in one go. All under 16 year olds automatically have their profile set to private, so only their designated friends can be within their network.

My Space encourages users to use wider identifiers, for instance, their suburb as opposed to their street number/name when entering public details into their MySpace profile, this will make it harder for school yard bullies to track people down online. If users have a public profile they need to view their profile as a window to the world, and refrain from posting any information or images they wouldn’t want the world to see.

To report a cyber bullying incident click on the “Contact MySpace” link which is advertised at the bottom of every MySpace.com page. Users should select the topic “Report Abuse” and the sub-topic “Cyber bullying” from the drop down menus and follow the prompts to report an incident.
GOOD SAMARITAN CATHOLIC COLLEGE
HINCHINBROOK
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Phone: (02) 9825 9955 - Fax: (02) 9825 9966
Email: admin@goodsamaritan.nsw.edu.au

CANTEEN ROSTER

| MONDAY 4th May | E. Hobby, J. Colley |
| TUESDAY 5th May | D. Toro, A. Waga |
| WEDNESDAY 6th May | J. Roccisano, J. Lauthier, L. Dwarte |
| THURSDAY 7th May | M. Alsafar, T. Severino, C. Ienco |
| FRIDAY 8th May | D. Caruana, D. Segatto, R. Romeo |
| MONDAY 11th May | N. Carver, D. Palumbo |
| TUESDAY 12th May | C. Kairuz, A. Spadaro, M. Titone |
| WEDNESDAY 13th May | A. Pipicella, R. Saliba, A. Macias |
| THURSDAY 14th May | A. O’Neil, L. Parke, D. Poschl |
| FRIDAY 15th May | R. Parker, A. Morozoff, M. Mudaliar |

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday 4th May  
Year 7 Chicken Pox & HPV vaccinations

Wednesday 6th May  
NSWCCC Swimming Carnival

Thursday 7th May  
School Photos

Friday 8th May  
Mothers Day Mass  
Southern Sydney Cross Country Competition

Tuesday 12th—Thurs 14th May  
NAPLAN Testing Yrs 7-9

Wednesday 20th May  
Yr 12 Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews

Caritas Jersey Raffle

The College will be conducting a raffle to support Caritas Australia. First prize will be a CHOICE of ONE of two jerseys. These are a signed and framed Manly Sea Eagles Jersey from the 2008 premiership winning team and a signed and framed West Tigers jersey from the 2005 Premiership winning team.

Tickets will be $1 each or 6 for $5. Students can purchase tickets at lunch time from the student leaders. Parents and other members of the community can purchase tickets through the College office.

Tickets will be on sale from Tuesday 28th April through to 29th May 2009.

Year 9/10 Girls Basketball

Congratulations to the Girls 9/10 Basketball team who were the undefeated winners of the MIS A competition last term. Brydie Cooper, Monique Brown, Zoe Tishler, Connie Pipicella, Alyssa Cook, Hannah Gilvear, Lauren Smith, Melissa Arndell, Kimberly Pham and Olivia Strzenkowski all played exceptionally well and showed great skill throughout the competition. Well done girls!!!

Mrs Colman