

GOOD SAMARITAN CATHOLIC COLLEGE HINCHINBROOK



NEWSLETTER

COLLEGE THEME 2010: "Be the Word in action"

Issue 2

Friday 12 February 2010

Dear Parents and Friends of the College

Last Friday the college conducted the Opening Mass for 2010. The celebration afforded us the opportunity to join together in praise of our God, to reflect on what has been and to look forward to our commitment to 2010. At the conclusion of Mass, the leaders for 2010 were presented with their badges and committed themselves to accepting their roles as leaders for the year. During this time we also welcomed all new staff and students with a blessing offered by the whole community. Finally, the college community was able to acknowledge the wonderful achievements of the 2009 Dux Luen Samonte. Luen was presented with a medallion and the perpetual trophy in recognition of her achievements. As a community, I am sure we all agree that what Luen has achieved, every student should aspire towards. I take this opportunity to thank Br Pat for celebrating Mass with us and Mr Kingsman and Mrs Dadd for the organization of the Mass.

At the beginning of this week The Senior leaders, Student Representative Council and Year 11 Pastoral Class leaders travelled to Mt Schoenstatt to take part in the college leadership training day. Students were given the opportunity to reflect on their leadership skills and to set some directions for student leadership at the college during the year. As a group leader on this day I was impressed by the maturity and insight displayed by the young people involved. It was gratifying to witness the commitment which each person displayed as they undertake their roles. This year the college has changed the structure slightly with Year 11 leaders taking on the role of house leaders. This will give each of them an opportunity to experience another leadership opportunity at the whole

school level. A full list of college leaders and the areas of college leadership is included later in this newsletter.

Last Monday evening the college welcomed Year 7 parents to the school. This was an opportunity to meet Pastoral Care teachers and to clarify any issues or concerns they may have. The night was a wonderful way to introduce parents to the college and to emphasise the importance of the partnership with teachers, on each child's educational journey. I thank Mr. Gray and the year 7 team for a very informative evening and thank the parents for being so receptive on the evening.

One of the more disappointing aspects of our first full week was the significant number of students who were absent from the Opening School Mass without legitimate reasons. Student attendance on community days and days of special celebration is compulsory at Good Samaritan. Any student who does not have a legitimate reason and is absent on these days is in breach of their enrolment contract and is not supporting the college as expected. I ask parents to support the college on this matter and remind parents that students are also expected to attend the last day of each term and these days are not a day for students to absent themselves from school. We need to encourage students to value all experiences related to their education and this is one means by which to do so.

Over the holidays the world was made aware of the tragic events of the earthquake in Haiti. It is not within our power to change these events but it certainly is within our power to help. Over the first four days of last week the college conducted

JOURNEYING WITH COMPASSION

Assistant Principal (Pastoral Care)

Notification of Measles, Chickenpox and other Infectious Diseases

One of the Students at Good Samaritan has been undergoing treatment for Leukaemia and as such is more susceptible to infectious diseases, such as Chickenpox and Measles, than other students. As Leukaemia is not infectious the student attends school as regular, where possible. If, however, this student were to contract measles or chickenpox they could become seriously ill. I ask therefore that if your son or daughter should contract one of these diseases, or develop associated symptoms, that you keep them home from school and notify me at the College as a matter of priority.

Motivational Media

On Thursday 25th February all students will attend a presentation at the College entitled "True North". Presented by the Motivational Media group "True North" has a focus on goal setting and building resilience. After viewing the presentation and in the following weeks the students will have the opportunity to participate in a number of follow up activities which will reinforce these themes.

Lateness to School

There have been a number of students late to school in recent days citing traffic congestion on Hoxton Park Rd as their reason. With the current road works, which will not be finished for quite some time, these delays will be an ongoing issue. The students have been told that traffic congestion will not be accepted as a valid reason for lateness. I would ask for the support of parents and guardians in allowing extra time to get to school while these works continue. I also ask parents to encourage students to catch a bus to school rather than be driven. This will reduce congestion in the college grounds and allow easier access by buses. The current practice at the College is that a student who is late three times is placed on after school detention.

The second issue relating to lateness has to do with Student ID Cards. Students must have their ID Cards to swipe in as late. The process becomes quite drawn out when they do not have them. All students are expected to have their ID cards with them every day.

Mr P Scollard

Assistant Principal (Pastoral Care)

disaster in Haiti. During the PC lessons of Monday to Friday was \$1045 which will be given to Caritas.

Next Wednesday 17th February is Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of Lent. In this weeks newsletter we have the requirements for catholics regarding fasting and abstinence during Lent. As usual Project Compassion will be running during the Lenten season with all money going again to Caritas. Caritas is the Catholic Church's national and international charity agency. This agency ensures that monies are distributed to grass root needs rather than the administration of institutions.

Mr P Kingsman, REC

Parenting Corner

Dear Parents

I would like to introduce myself to you and outline the role I have this year at the college. As you are aware, your children benefit from a number of pastoral support systems put in place to assist them with the ups and downs of school life.

Your children are cared for by their Pastoral Care teachers and their Year Co-ordinator as well as their subject teachers. This year I will be offering your children another level of support.

As the Student Welfare Co-ordinator, my role is to meet with any student who wants to have a talk about an area of their life which concerns them and is preventing them from achieving their best at school. For most students I will be able to offer suggestions that will help them with their concerns and they will move on. Some students will need to be referred to more specialised help outside the school. If this needs to happen the matter will be discussed with you and your permission sought.

May I include few thoughts that I've been sharing with the students at Year Assemblies.

One of the essential qualities of successful students is confidence – **self-confidence**. I am not referring to a false confidence, where a person shows off to cover up their insecurities but rather a student's belief in themselves to achieve their goals through hard work and perseverance.

As you know there are difficult situations that arise throughout the year when your child's confidence is damaged. It is at these times they need your encouragement and the support of the staff to rebuild their self-confidence and to maximise their learning potential.

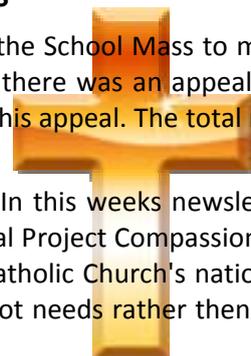
I also wish to acknowledge the valuable role of Sr Marj who will continue to offer your sons and daughters the pastoral support that they may need this year.

I look forward to being a part of a successful journey with your sons and daughters.

Mr M Bell
Student Welfare

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Last week in preparation for the School Mass to mark the beginning of the school year there was an appeal for the students made donations to this appeal. The total reached





Lenten Penance

Cardinal George Pell, Archbishop of Sydney

The Church's Canon Law reaffirms our obligation to do penance. The special times of penance are all Fridays throughout the year and the season of Lent. We recall that St. John the Baptist prepared for the coming of the Lord by "preaching a baptism of repentance". Christ began his ministry on earth with the exhortation to repent: "Repent and believe the Gospel" Mk 1:15.

Repentance means the rejection of sin. It implies conversion to, and reconciliation with God. Penance is the concrete expression of repentance. It takes the forms of prayer, self-denial, and works of charity. Each of these identifies us more closely with our Saviour. By penance we make satisfaction for our sins, and take real steps in the renewal of our lives. Penance is the proof of our repentance. Repentance and conversion are central, on-going features of Christian living. Penance has to be a constant, even daily, practice in our lives. In nominating special times of penance, the Church encourages and promotes in all of us the habit of penance.

Furthermore, observance of these special times by all Catholics throughout the universal Church emphasises what we call "the social dimension of sin". The sin of the individual member always in some measure infects the whole body. Therefore during Lent and on the Fridays of the year, we do penance, not only on our own account, but also in the name of the Church and of the world. We must take very seriously our penitential obligations and be sure to carry them out. The Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference has not restricted our penance to fast and abstinence in all cases, it has left room for our own responsible choice. Where we make the choice, we should carefully select the form of penance that we consider most appropriate for our own circumstances and growth in the Christian life.

DAYS OF PENANCE

1. Rules for Lent follow in (a), (b), and (c).
2. Abstinence from meat, and fasting, are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
3. On all other Fridays of the year the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing any one of the following:
 - (a) prayer – for example, Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the Stations of the Cross; praying the rosary.
 - (b) self-denial – for example, not eating meat; not eating sweets or dessert; giving up entertainment to spend time with the family; limiting food and drink so as to give to the poor of one's own country.
 - (c) helping others – for example, special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or overburdened.

All who have completed their eighteenth year and have not yet begun their sixtieth year are bound to fast. All who have completed their fourteenth year are bound to abstain.

LENT LASTS FROM ASH WEDNESDAY (9TH FEBRUARY) TO THE MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER EXCLUSIVE (24TH MARCH). ON GOOD FRIDAY AND, IF POSSIBLE, ALSO ON HOLY SATURDAY UNTIL THE EASTER VIGIL, THE EASTER FAST IS OBSERVED.

PASCHAL PRECEPT

Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This is to be done between Ash Wednesday, 9th February, and Trinity Sunday, 22nd May, 2005 unless for a good reason it is done at another time during the year. All the faithful are obliged to confess their grave sins at least once a year.



HAPPY LUNAR NEW YEAR!

MAY THE "YEAR OF THE TIGER" BE BLESSED.

Chinese New Year starts with the New Moon on the first day of the new year and ends on the full moon 15 days later. The 15th day of the new year is called the Lantern Festival. For many Asian families in the Far East and around the world, the Lunar New Year is a celebration of change.

Technology News



- **College Mobile Web Site**

The College web site is now available as an optimised site for your web-enabled mobile phone. The mobile-based site provides fundamental resources which include access to the myInternet service, and up-to-date news from the College. It is a valuable site when you are not near a computer and need to access news from the College quickly (such as the cancellation of events due to wet weather). More services will be progressively uploaded to the mobile site over the coming months.

The College Mobile Web Site is
www.goodsamaritan.nsw.edu.au/mobile

- **View your timetable via myInfo**

From Monday the 22nd February, students will be able to view their timetable online. If you have misplaced your timetable or for any recent changes, you will now be able to personally download and print your timetable. Simply use your login details to access your timetable via the College's secure site, myInfo. 'myInfo' is accessible via the College web site, under the myInternet tab.

- **This Edition's Web Safety Tip: Social Networking Sites**

Your son/daughter may use social networking sites such as Windows Live Spaces, YouTube, MySpace, Flickr, Twitter, Facebook, and others. They use social networks to connect with others who might live halfway around the world, and with their peers whom they see every day at school.

Your son/daughter should understand that many of these social networking sites can be viewed by anyone with access to the Internet. As a result, some of the information they post can make them vulnerable to phishing scams, cyberbullying, and Internet predators. Here are several ways to help kids use social networking sites safely:

1) Ensure that your son/daughter only communicates with people they already know. They should never accept a contact / request from a person that they've never met before.

2) Never use real names on online sites. Using your actual name, and announcing other public information such as address, phone numbers (including mobile numbers) and which school you go to on social networking sites could potentially lead to identity theft. It is important to note that once information is uploaded to the internet, it is almost impossible for it to be removed permanently, even after its deletion.

3) Make use of the social-networking site's privacy control scheme. On certain sites, you can set permissions for who can view your site, ranging from anyone on the Internet, to only people you choose.

4) Teach your children about cyberbullying. Talk to them about cyberbullying. Tell them that if they think they're being cyberbullied, they should share this information right away with a parent, a teacher, or another adult that they trust. It's also important to encourage kids to communicate with other people online in the same way they would face-to-face. Ask kids to treat other people the way they would prefer to be treated.

5) Be smart about details in photographs. Explain to your children that photographs can reveal a lot of personal information. Encourage your children not to post photographs

of themselves or their friends with clearly identifiable details such as street signs, license plates on their cars, or their school name on clothing.

6) Passwords should be changed periodically to make sure online information is kept secure. A compromised password could lead to personal information being stolen, and even defamation.

7) If it's too good to be true, it probably is. A friend might have sent a message similar to "Microsoft has just announced FREE versions of Office 2010! Click here to download a copy now!". Hackers can break into accounts and send messages that look like they're from your friends, but aren't. These messages could contain a link to a virus, or a portal that allows the hacker a 'back door' to your computer. Disregard and delete the message, and don't click on any of the links within the message.

Mr J. Reyes
I.T. Co-ordinator

YEAR 11 CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Larsin Dinkha** and **John Pham-Le** who have been invited to attend the popular Bilfinger Berger Australia Autumn School of Engineering. These boys were selected from numerous applicants from students across NSW. Larsin and John will receive valuable insight into many aspects of a wide range of engineering disciplines. They will attend lectures at Chatswood and participate in field trips to industry and university engineering labs. Two days will be spent touring engineering establishments in the industrial city of Newcastle. We wish the boys all the best for this great opportunity.

Mr Gray
Engineering Teacher

MUSIC TUITION

All students are invited to take part in the college instrument tuition program in 2010. This involves weekly lessons held at the college on guitar and a variety of woodwind, string and brass instruments.

Anyone interested can contact Mrs Popovic or Miss Benjamin to get further information on times and fees.

CLIQUE

Calling all students!!!

Do you want to be noticed by fellow peers?

Do you want to be a chance to create an article for people of the school to see?

Well this is your chance to be a part of the school magazine called Clique!

Clique is a magazine by the students, for the students filled with puzzles, optical illusions, reviews and interviews from your classmates. We publish 1 issue every term!!!

For more information just listen out for the messages!
Hope to see you at our next meeting!!!

By Melanie Thomas and Sarah Santangelo



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CATHOLIC COLLEGE
HINCHINBROOK**

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CANTEEN ROSTER

Monday 15th February	F. Oselli, S. Zaia, A. Ammelino
Tuesday 16th February	B. Boustany, K. Matti, T. Cox
Wednesday 17th February	A. Morozoff, G. Beretta, A. Macias, J. Roccisano
Thursday 18th February	M. Alsafar, T. Severino, C. Byrne
Friday 19th February	SWIMMING CARNIVAL
Monday 22nd February	E. Sculli, A. Testa, M. Macri
Tuesday 23rd February	L. Pacchiarotta, G. Camera, G. Natoli
Wednesday 24th February	C. Magsino, A. Vantwest, D. Gavlas
Thursday 25th February	S. Lichaa, G. Bartolo, K. Cutler
Friday 26th February	S. Gioiosa, M. Mudaliar, T. Inzitari

GOOD SAMARITAN OPENING MASS



DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday 15th February
Yr 10 Parent/Student Information Evening

Wednesday 17th February
Ash Wednesday

Friday 19th February
College Swimming Carnival

**GOOD SAMARITAN
CATHOLIC COLLEGE**

OPEN DAY

SATURDAY 13TH

MARCH 2010

10AM—2PM

It has come to our attention that some children are losing their copy of the school newsletter before this valuable source of information is received at home by parents. For your information, this newsletter is available online at <http://www.goodsamaritan.nsw.edu.au/index.htm>. However, if you would like to have your copy emailed to you instead of a hard copy being passed on to your child and therefore ensuring you always receive your edition, then please complete the information below and return this slip to the school office.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____