Dear Parents and Friends of the college

Last week, Good Samaritan had the pleasure of a visit from Br Kelvin Canavan. Br Kelvin was the Executive Director of Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Sydney until last year. Good Samaritan was approved and constructed during Br Kelvin’s directorship and much of what exists today can be attributed to his leadership. During the visit, Br Kelvin stated he was very impressed by the progress and growth of the college since the early days in 1999. He was especially complimentary about the outstanding results achieved by our students in recent external examinations. At the conclusion of his visit, Br. Kelvin acknowledged our achievements and asked me to pass on his best wishes to our community.

(A full text of the annual improvement plan is available on the College website www.goodsamaritan.nsw.edu.au.)

I thank the parents who have agreed to be members of the committee and look forward to working with them throughout 2010.

On Saturday, March 13th, the college will be conducting our 2010 Open Day. 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 facilitate informed decision-making around choice of school. Parents of future students are invited to attend to familiarize themselves with the college. Parents of students already attending the college are also invited to view their children’s school.

Last week, our Year 10 cohort were fortunate to
Compassion

Like

PRINCIPAL

Education

Perhaps

Mr Costin, Mr Kingsman, Mrs Dadd and the Year 10 Religious Education Teachers for providing such a worthwhile opportunity to the students.

Last Friday evening, I had the pleasure of listening to a number of students from our college present speeches at the Catholic Secondary Schools Public Speaking Competition which was conducted at St Patrick’s College at Campbelltown. I was impressed by the presentations that I witnessed, and by the willingness of these young men and women to move out of their comfort zones and to undertake difficult tasks which they would not normally confront. I congratulate each student on their performances and their willingness to challenge themselves to use their talents productively. The names of the participants are included later in this newsletter.

This week I had the good fortune to present a Gold Award to Johann Kamalaneson of Year 11. This is a great effort and a reflection of Johann’s commitment and dedication. Well done Johann.

During Lent it is appropriate to focus on our purpose in life. One purpose, as Jesus Christ tells us, is to love one another and to reach out to others. During Lent individuals are encouraged to reach out to others who are less fortunate than themselves. Often this group is referred to as the poor, but how do we interpret poor? What is poverty and what is wealth? Recently I came across a phrase that impressed upon me the importance of how we view different situations. The phrase is: “Poverty is greed and wealth is contentment”. Often people consider what they do not have and feel that they are very poor not because of what is lacking but because they long for so much more. Perhaps during this time of Lent many of us could focus on what we have and recognize that we are in fact wealthy due to the family, friends and good fortune that have been bestowed upon us by our God. This would allow us to be thankful to our God and to seek ways to encourage others to realize that they too have much for which to be thankful. Hopefully this will enable each of us to appreciate the real needs of other people and to contribute to their welfare in a genuine, considerate and selfless manner.

God Bless

Mr J Lo Cascio
PRINCIPAL

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL (ADMINISTRATION)

Parent / Teacher / Student Interviews

Interviews with Pastoral Care teachers will be held at the college on Wednesday, 31st March from 3.15pm until 7.30pm. An interim report will be available for all students enrolled in Years 7 – 11. Students are requested to book a time for this interview with their pastoral teacher. It is an expectation that all families are represented at these interviews to discuss the overall progress of your children. These interviews also provide an opportunity for parents / carers to share with the pastoral teacher any pertinent information relevant to their child. In order to accommodate all families it is necessary to limit interviews to a maximum of ten minutes. If a longer interview is required a subsequent appointment time will need to be arranged.

Sickness Procedures

If a student is ill at the start of the day parents are requested to make a judgment about the suitability of sending a sick child to the college. In the event of a student becoming ill whilst at school the procedure is that the student reports to the college office after gaining permission from their Pastoral Care Teacher or Year Coordinator. Contact is then made with parents if it is assessed that the student’s illness requires them to be sent home. Students are not permitted to contact parents requesting to be collected from the school as there is a clearly established procedure in place for responding to matters of sickness. Parents are advised to remind their children of this requirement should they receive direct contact from them during the school day.

Mr P Brooks
Assistant Principal (Administration)

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL (PASTORAL CARE)

Doing your best in all that you do

Last Sunday, the 7th of March, was the third Sunday of Lent. The Gospel reading was the familiar parable of the Fig Tree. The tree had not produced any fruit for some time and as such was at risk of being cut down. Rather than cutting it down, however, it was fertilised and given extra care so that it might bear much fruit the next season.

There is much that we can take from this parable but as individuals in a Catholic School, in a country which is very fortunate to have abundant resources I think there is one very clear message. We are all expected to bear fruit. That is we are expected to produce good works. These good works might take the form of good results at school, improving on our current personal best. The good works might be that we support those less fortunate, be it through contributions to Project

Compassion or by actively supporting those around us in a variety of ways. It might be that we are simply good active members of the Good Samaritan Community – arriving at school on time, wearing our uniform with pride and behaving in such a way that promotes the College.

Like the tree we will not always produce the fruit we are capable of producing. As a Catholic community we will challenge, support and encourage you to be your best. To produce fruit in abundance.

Mr P Scollard
Assistant Principal (Pastoral Care)
FROM THE STUDENT WELFARE CO-ORDINATOR

There are a number of excellent writers on adolescent wellbeing and development. Michael Carr-Gregg is one author who is often interviewed by the media when an adolescent story hits the news. I believe he offers very sane advice.

In a recent article I read, he was speaking about early adolescents facing two daunting feelings – a sense of loss and a sense of fear.

These feelings are at the core of each young person and were readily manifested, to some degree, as your son or daughter were preparing to begin a new phase of their education in Year 7. This also applies to other year groups as they embark into the unknown of new teachers, new subjects and new expectations. Of course these feelings were also mixed with anticipation and excitement as the new adventure was to take place.

The sense of loss comes particularly as the young teenager realises that his parents are not who he thought they were. In the critical gaze of the young adolescent, there is the realisation that parents are not perfect after all. This revelation and the accompanying breaking away process to form closer peer friendships, create a certain sadness in our young people at a deep level.

The second deep feeling in young adolescents is fear. This is so carefully hidden by most adolescents that many parents don’t even recognise its presence. Adolescents are heading into the unknown. As adults, we have made this journey. Their fear is perfectly understandable, yet there are very few young people who would admit this and, to be honest, many would not be aware that they are experiencing fear let alone loss.

What can parents do?

Although your child may look more confident at this age, the expectations of secondary school can be daunting, all the way through from Years 7 to 12.

- as best you can show a real interest in what’s happening at school and each day ask the question, “How was your day?”
- if your child seems down or unusually moody – investigate – it could be friendship issues or difficulty in coping with the demands of a particular subject acknowledge effort as well as their results – we all need and respond positively to affirmation
- encourage your child to participate in the many extra activities that exist at the school

If there is any concern that you would like to discuss about your child’s well being please contact me at the school.

Best wishes.

Mr M Bell
Student Welfare Co-ordinator

Youth Ministry Corner

We are in the fourth week of Lent and as Catholics, this is a time of preparation for the Resurrection at Easter. We are called to prepare for this through Prayer, Fasting and Aiminggiving. We often do this by giving up something we enjoy, like chocolate or ice-cream and contributing to charities such as Caritas through Project Compassion. However, as Cardinal Pell recently alluded to in his document The Importance of Individual Confession for Lent: Welcomed Home by the Father, the ultimate preparation occurs through Reconciliation, “...the Sacrament of Penance stands as the interior door through which all Catholics should enter during their Lenten pilgrimage to Easter.” (http://www.sydney.catholic.org.au/news/) With this in mind, I encourage all students to continue their Lenten journey through the Sacrament of Penance. It is through this sacrament that we personally encounter our God.

Reconciliation times for local Parishes

Holy Spirit: Saturday 10.30am-11.30am (or by appointment phone 9826 8977)
Good Shepherd: Saturday 10.30am-11.30am (or by appointment phone 9825 8154)

Mrs E Dadd
Youth Ministry Co-ordinator

Year 12 Careers Excursion

On Friday, February 26, a group of 30 Year 12 students attended the Healthwise Careers Expo at Liverpool Hospital. This expo was organised by Sydney Southwest Area Health Service along with Fairfield Education Business Partnership to outline the nature and demands of careers within the health sector.

Students first heard from the Regional Director of Sydney Southwest Area Health Service about the wide range of employment opportunities within the region and then participated in a question and answer panel with health professionals including a hospital registrar, nurse, psychologist, dentist and aged care worker.

After the first session, the students were able to go on tours of various sections of the hospital (including the dental clinic, pathology lab and general wards) and visit information stands set up by a wide range of health career paths where they had the opportunity to find out about entrance requirements and daily duties of various health professionals.

All the students are to be commended on the maturity with which they approached this opportunity. Thanks also to Mrs Cook who accompanied the students.

Mrs Hewitt
Careers Adviser

Italian Proverb of the week

Chi va piano, va sano e lontano!
Slow and steady wins the race
Science News

Year 7
Last Friday much of Year 7 were involved in a day of Science at Good Samaritan. Students participated in “hands on” activities including the CSIRO “States of Matter” show, conducting Scientific Investigations, and a visit to the Skyworks Planetarium to view our solar system and the stars beyond.

Students were captivated and enthralled by the explosive and dynamic nature of the presentations and were constantly challenged and engaged. This experience enhanced their learning and understanding whilst refined their skills as they learned Science by actually DOING Science.

Year 9
Year 9 have recently been studying the universe and had the opportunity to design and build a space station. Students brainstormed ideas before building began to ensure that the stations were equipped with appropriate facilities to support a number of astronauts for an extended period of time. Careful thought and discussion resulted in some clever designs!

Year 11 Chemistry
Students in Miss Parsons’ Year 11 Chemistry have been studying a range of chemicals and their reactivity in nature, building on their knowledge from stage 5 Science. The students have conducted combustion and decomposition experiments allowing them to experience Chemistry outside of the usual laboratory setting. Year 11 has certainly risen to the challenge of ‘thinking outside the square’ in Chemistry!

Year 12 Physics
Last Thursday students in Mrs Martin’s Year 12 Physics class “Boldly went where no Physics class had gone before” – travelling to the furthest reaches of our galaxy and the Universe, and conducting a range of exciting and original investigations and experiments at The Powerhouse Museum at Ultimo. Everybody thoroughly enjoyed the whole day in which we shared in a mutual appreciation and deeper understanding of mankind’s progress and achievements which are “out of this world.”
**Geography News**

On Friday 5th March year 7.1, 7.3, 7.5, 7.7 and Year 11 Geography students attended a fieldwork excursion to Centennial Parklands. Year 7 students participated in 3 activities. These included dipnetting, testing including water and soil and a walk discussing the human and physical elements, finishing with a field sketch.

This experience provided the year 7 students with the ability to construct a recount report of their geographical findings. Students should be congratulated on their involvement and participation on the day.

Year 11 students are to be congratulated on providing excellent support to teacher in assisting in the running of the day.

All students represented the college with great pride and should be commended on their excellent behaviour.

Mrs Colman
Assistant HSIE Co-ordinator

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**Mathematics News**

World Maths Day has come and gone for another year. Once the clock struck 10pm on the 2nd of March, students were able to compete against people from Australia and all over the world in 60 second mental arithmetic challenges.

From its inauguration in 2007, World Maths Day has been celebrated internationally as a fun and useful tool to unite the learning of mathematics and the interactivity of the internet. Students from over 200 countries have participated and are given the opportunity to improve and master their addition, subtraction, multiplication and division skills. This year, a new world record of 572 753 084 questions were answered correctly over a 48 hour period.

Here at Good Samaritan Catholic College, the anticipation for this event was intense. Standards were set very high early on in the practice phase with several classes entering the daily list of the top 50 classes of the world. Our school contributed a total of 213 469 points to the total. This is due to the outstanding contribution of our students who dedicated themselves to achieving their best in this competition. Special congratulations to Shedona Pulumbarit, Sinead Cummins, Zachary Naidu, Brian Kane, and Venessa Ku who answered over 5000 questions on the day and received a Gold Award from Mathletics for their efforts.

Mr G Georgiou and Miss M Boggs

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KIDS HELP LINE  1800 551800
We care and we listen—anytime and for any reason

PARENT LINE  132055
Confidential Help for Parents
9am—4.40pm  Monday to Saturday
GSCC Public Speaking Challenge Final
On Wednesday 24th February Year 7 students participated in the final of the very first GSCC Public Speaking Challenge. Two students from every Catholic Studies class were chosen to represent their house in this competition. The topic of the speeches was our college theme for 2010: “Be the word in action”. Audience members were entertained by twelve talented speakers who shared their understanding of the theme and explained how all students can actively carry out its mission. Special guest adjudicators Mr Lo Cascio and Sister Marj were given the difficult task of selecting the best four speakers of the final. Their decision was based on both the quality of the written speech as well as the effectiveness of its presentation. Copies of the four winning speeches will be included over the next few newsletters. Special thanks to Mr Lo Cascio and Sister Marj for adjudicating as well as Mr Kingsman and the Year 7 Catholic Studies teaching team for supporting this new competition.

Mr M Bradbury
Public Speaking Coordinator

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Winners</th>
<th>Finalists</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harry Butler - MacKillop</td>
<td>Anneliza Alverne</td>
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<td>Chelsea O’Connor - Polding</td>
<td>Frank Canturi</td>
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<td>Joseph Vartuli - Chisholm</td>
<td>Eliana Gittany</td>
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<td>Luke Clinch - Merici</td>
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<td>Shenali Meneripitiyage</td>
<td>Samantha Parke</td>
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<td>Samantha Parke</td>
<td>Gabriella Raco</td>
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<td>Gabriella Raco</td>
<td>James Sharkey</td>
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Public Speaking - Round 1
Last Friday 5th March Good Samaritan once again participated in the CSDA Public Speaking competition at St Patricks College, Campbelltown. It was the college’s most successful first round result in the competition, which features Catholic schools from across the Sydney metropolitan area. Seven out of the twelve speakers from the college were awarded a place in the zone final to be held at Santa Sabina Strathfield on Friday 12th March. It was also pleasing that the students who were unlucky not to gain a place in the next round received compliments from representatives of other schools in regard to their speeches as well as their friendly interactions with other speakers. Congratulations to Harry Butler and Chelsea O’Connor from Year 7, Sarah Santangelo from Year 9, Justin Jarrett and Maddison McPherson from Year 10 and Chanel Gronowski and Mary Nega from the Senior division for making it through to the zone final. Good Samaritan was also lucky to have a large supporter base of parents and staff who made the long drive to Campbelltown to watch our speakers. A very special thank you to Mr Lo Cascio and the coaching staff of Miss Raso, Mrs Castillo, Mr Turner and Miss Parsons. We wish all seven of our remaining speakers the best of luck in the next round.

Mr M Bradbury
Public Speaking Coordinator

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Students</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>Harry Butler and Chelsea O’Connor</td>
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<td>Year 8</td>
<td>Adrian Arcuri and Maximilliano Molina</td>
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<td>Year 9</td>
<td>Daniel Kamalaneson and Sarah Santangelo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 10</td>
<td>Justin Jarrett and Maddison McPherson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seniors</td>
<td>Chanel Gronowski, Johann Kamalaneson, Mary Nega, Sarah Nega</td>
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Visual Arts News

On Thursday the 4th of March the Year 12 visual arts class attended a tour and workshop at Casula Powerhouse Museum. The tour allowed us to view a number of artworks representing our bicentennial year for Liverpool. These artworks were done by a number of artists within our local area. It included a series of different mediums, which would further help us with our development of our bodies of works for our HSC year. Our workshop with Kathie Najar allowed us to gain insight into a range of different drawing techniques. This excursion allowed us to gain a different point of view on art, to physically view art works and to gain hands on experience with an artist.

Daniela, Melissa and Nicole
Yr 12 Visual Arts

National Youth Week 2010 ‘Liverpool’s Got Talent’ Event

As part of the National Youth Week celebrations to be held in April this year, Liverpool Youth Council are going to present a fantastic youth event based on a drama, dance and music competition entitled ‘Liverpool’s Got Talent’. As well as the competition, there will be a host of other activities including air brush tattooing, mocktails, food and shows from local youth service providers. The date of the event is Saturday 10th April 2010 and will be held at Casula Powerhouse. The event runs from 5pm—9.30pm.

St. John Bosco Catholic Parish - “Born for This”

St. John Bosco Catholic Parish in Engadine, is proud to present the Diocese of Wollongong’s production of "Born For This." (http://www.dow.org.au/youth) This production is a great way to reflect upon the Christian story.

"Born For This" is a contemporary musical presentation of the Stations of the Cross, that will be on 26th March at 7:30pm. Suitable for all ages, and presented by the Youth of the Diocese of Wollongong.

Tickets are $10 for Adults, $5 for all Children and Concessions, and $25 for families of 2 adults and 2 children. The performance will take place in the Church (Corner of Banksia and Waratah Road, Engadine NSW 2233). It is a short walk from Engadine Railway station.

Tickets will be on sale at the door, or online at http://www.dow.org.au/youth. (Please note that the family ticket will be on sale at the door only.)

St John Bosco Parish
Engadine

College Swimming Carnival

After some very tight and strong competition, the college wishes to congratulate the following Age Champions for 2010.

Girls
- Samantha Parke
- Chanelle Finau
- Isabella Puttenger
- Chloe Parke
- Alyssa Cook
- Hannah Gilvear

Boys
- Daniel Sadek
- Brandon Cook
- Joseph Mawson
- Isaac Finau
- Jake Ingle
- Jacob Zammit

Southern Sydney Swimming

On Friday 5th of March the Annual Southern Sydney Swimming Carnival was held at Caringbah Leisure Centre. The College sent a squad of 28 students to participate in the Carnival. There were a number of impressive performances throughout the day with the highlight being in the Under 13’s Girls Age Group where Chanelle Finau was named Age Champion.

The full squad consisted of Levi Da Silva, George Macri, Niko Esguerra, Monique Brown, Samantha Parke, Jake Ingle, Bianca Moss, Adam Ciampa, Daniel Sadek, Samuel Romeo, Rhiannon Caruana, Clae Dickson, Jacob Zammit, Brandon Cook, Hannah Gilvear, Luke Ferreira, Alyssa Cook, Chanelle Finau, Jacqueline Da Silva, Laura Cross, Daniel Cassone, Sean Birmingham, Joseph Mawson, Chloe Parke, Isabella Puttenger and John Cox.

Mr S Zahra, Sport Coordinator
“Masterpieces from Paris” in Canberra

The Good Samaritan Catholic College Staff Social Club would like to invite you to get up close and personal with the ‘Masterpieces from Paris’ in Canberra on Saturday 20th March, 2010. Join us to experience the magnificent works of Van Gogh, Gauguin and Cézanne – Post Impressionists from The Musée D’Orsay, Paris.

The social club has arranged for a coach to depart from the school grounds at 8:00am and return from the National Gallery Canberra at around 7pm that evening. We have made a booking for 12:00 at the National Gallery to avoid the crowds.

The day trip will only go ahead if there are sufficient numbers to fill the coach. Bookings are only confirmed and secured when monies are received at the front office immediately. First in policy (no refunds). The cost of the outing will be $80.00 per adult and $61.00 per child in Year 11/12 (up to 16 years) which includes coach travel and your entry to the exhibition. As this is a unique opportunity please note there will definitely be queues to enter the exhibition.

Please complete the form below and return to the front office immediately with the monies owed to secure your place on the bus. Students in Years 11 and 12 must also complete the permission note.

Please print name/s of people attending (up to three people per form)

1. ___________________________________________ 2. ___________________________________________ 3. ___________________________________________

I wish to attend the GSCC Social Club day trip to the ‘Masterpieces from Paris’ in Canberra on Saturday March 20th, 2010. Please accept my payment of $80.00 per adult person or $61.00 for Year 11/12 student to secure my place on the coach and to cover my entry to the exhibition.

Number of adult tickets required please tick

1 ticket $80.00 □  2 tickets $160.00 □  3 tickets $240.00 □

Number of Year 11/12 student tickets required please tick (16 years or under)

1 ticket $61.00 □  2 tickets $122.00 □  3 tickets $183.00 □

Payment received by (office staff signature) __________________

BELOW IS TO BE ONLY COMPLETED BY PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF YEAR 11 AND 12 STUDENTS OF GSCC ATTENDING THE DAY TRIP

I give permission for my son / daughter ___________________________ to attend ‘Masterpieces from Paris’ in Canberra on Saturday 20th March, 2010 and to travel to and from the venue by coach. I understand that my son daughter is responsible for arranging their own private transport to and from the school grounds on the day.

Signed: _______________________________ Date: _____________________
CANTEEN ROSTER

Monday 15th March  N. Carver, D. Palumbo, L. Tomelic
Tuesday 16th March  L. Pacchiarotta, G. Camera, G. Natoli
Wednesday 17th March  L. Dwarfie, D. Weatherby
Thursday 18th March  A. O’Neil, L. Valenzano, H. Toma
Friday 19th March  H. Molina, L. La Rosa, S. Orellana, S. Gioiosa
Monday 22nd March  F. Oselli, A. Ammelino
Tuesday 23rd March  B. Boustany, K. Matti, T. Cox
Wednesday 24th March  R. Criniti, D. Hadjisocratous, A. Morozoff
Thursday 25th March  M. Alsafar, T. Severino, G. Bartolo
Friday 26th March  J. Gardner, J. Lauthier, M. Mudaliar

Easter Hot Cross Buns- Bakers Delight
For the next 3 weeks, Hot Cross Buns will be sold at the canteen to raise money for Caritas during Lent. Options include:
Order & pre-payment of a packet of hot cross buns ($6.50 per bag of 6) 1 delivery only on Friday 26th March Week 9. Orders & pre-payments placed at Canteen only.
OR purchase a single hot cross bun during Thursday/Friday breakfast & recess for $1.80ea
starts this week!
Options include: Chocolate chip, original fruit, and mocha (chocolate with choc chip)

SECONDHAND UNIFORM SALE
TUESDAY 16TH MARCH  1PM—4PM
CASH ONLY!
THERE WILL BE NO EXCHANGE OR REFUND ON SECONDHAND ITEMS PURCHASED, SO PLEASE CHOOSE CAREFULLY

Last Day of Term 1
Due to the significant involvement of both staff and students in the college open day, a day in lieu of this event has been granted to the community. As a result, Term One will conclude on Wednesday March 31st after the Parent Teacher Student interviews.

Bus Route and Timetable Changes
The college has been advised that a new Integrated Bus Network will commence on 22 March 2010. As a result, all regular bus services in the Liverpool, Fairfield and Holroyd areas will be running to new timetables and all services will have new route numbers.
The Bus Service changes will also affect many School Bus services. A revised School Advice sheet for each school has been released and provided to students. A copy of changes can also be viewed online at www.a3mc.com.au. A copy of the revised timetable has been included in this newsletter as an insert.