COLLEGE THEME 2010: “Be the Word in action”  

**Issue 5**

Dear Parents and Friends of the College

On Saturday March 13, the beginning of Catholic Schools Week, the college conducted our Open Day for prospective students coming to the school in 2011. The event was as much an occasion to showcase Good Samaritan, as a celebration of being a Catholic school. The school was awash with activity with subject displays and student tours. It was an expression of our pride in what we have, what we do and who we are. I must state at the end of the day, I was certainly pleased with what Good Samaritan has become over its short history and equally proud of the future directions that have been established as we continue the journey. I thank the teachers, students and parents for their involvement and look forward to meeting the many new students who visited the college as they begin their journey in 2011.

As mentioned above, there was also a focus on what it means to be a Catholic college during the formal presentation on Open Day. At times, it is appropriate for our whole community to reflect on what we believe constitutes an authentic Catholic School and what it means to be a Catholic School.

I quote from the Sydney Archdiocesan Catholic Schools vision statement. The Catholic School:

- Is founded in the person of Jesus Christ and enlivened by the Gospel values
- Highlights the relevance of faith and contemporary culture to individuals’ lives
- Is embedded in the community of believers and shares the evangelizing mission of the church
- Is committed to the development of the whole person.

As I stressed to parents on the Open Day and reinforce here; Good Samaritan is very much an authentic Catholic school and we will continue to emphasise that our Catholic educational institution is based on Catholic values and encourages all members of our community to strive for personal excellence in all areas of their lives.

Last Friday night, the college was represented in two significant arenas by our students. Luen Samonte and Julie Labuguen from Year 12 2009 had art works displayed at the Clancy Art prize. Luen received “The Brian Jordan Prize”, which acknowledged her artwork as one of the best in the Archdiocese of Sydney. Julie’s work was also acknowledged as being of an extremely high standard. On the same evening, Justin Jarrett of Year 10 represented the college in the final of the CDSA Public Speaking Competition. Once again Justin was excellent and his performance was one of which we were very proud. Although not winning the final, Justin’s speech was certainly of the highest possible standard. Well done Luen, Julie and Justin.

At the end of this Term, Ms Walker will begin maternity leave in preparation for the birth of her first child. I am sure our community will join with me to wish Ms Walker and her husband Anthony, all the best for the impending birth. Ms Walker will return to Good Samaritan in 2011, however, during her absence, Mr Peter Morris will join the college staff to teach her classes and the position of Year 11 Coordinator will be undertaken by Mrs Kennedy.

As we come to the end of term, we also begin the journey to Easter through Holy Week. The following reflection, from “Mercy Care”, offers a very useful perspective on Holy Week:
Holy Week is a week of contrasts - it has a mixture of celebrations to the joyful arrival of Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the suffering, humiliation, and death of Christ on Good Friday and the hope of new beginnings of Easter Sunday. It is important to place the hope of the Resurrection, the promise of newness and life, against the background of death and endings. It is only in walking through the shadows and darkness of Holy Week and Good Friday, only in realizing the horror and magnitude of sin and its consequences in the world incarnated in the dying Jesus on the cross, only in contemplating the ending and despair that the disciples felt on Holy Saturday, that we can truly understand the light and hope of Easter Sunday morning. Easter Sunday is celebrated against the background of the shadows and darkness of Lent and Holy Week, this season truly becomes a living expression of the hope that God has brought into the world through the death and resurrection of Jesus. In observing this truth, that new beginnings come from endings, many people are able to draw a parable of their own lives and faith journey from the observances of Holy Week. In providing people with the opportunity to experience this truth in liturgy and symbol, the services become a powerful proclamation of the transformative power of the Gospel, and God at work in the lives of people.

I encourage everyone to involve themselves in the Holy Week celebrations, so that God may be an even greater presence in their lives.

I wish everyone a holy and faith filled Easter and a safe school holiday.

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 3.30pm until **7.30pm**. An interim report will be available for all students enrolled in **Years 7 – 11**. Students have been 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 children during first term. 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.

**Study Skills Sessions - Students**

Parents are advised that the college has made arrangements for all students in Years 9, 10 & 11 to be involved in a study skills session at the college at various times on **Wednesday, 21st April (Day 8)**, during the first week of second term. The workshops will be conducted by the same external consultant who was engaged by the college last year. Once again, the focus of the session will be on the development of both study and examination skills. The presentation will cover areas such as:

- Organisational skills
- Effective time management
- Making study notes
- Studying effectively

These workshops are designed to be informative, practical and action-oriented. They will assist students to understand the way they study and provide them with practical skills that will help them to maximise their results in their final years of school. The cost for this session is $7.00 per student and this amount will be charged to the second term fee account. Through their involvement in this activity it is hoped that students will be assisted in their preparation for the examinations to be held in each year group during the middle of second term.

**Study Skills Session - Parents and Students**

Advance notice is also provided of a parent and student evening to be held in the second half of Term 2. The work from the student study skills sessions will be developed further in a Parent and Student Evening to be held at the college on **Wednesday, 2nd June** from **7.00pm until 8.30pm**. The timing of this night coincides with the completion of the examination period and it should provide all students with the opportunity to reflect upon the successes and challenges of their study regime leading up to Semester One examinations. The content of this presentation is different from the student sessions and, as the session is very interactive, parents are strongly encouraged to attend with their son or daughter to ensure that maximum value is obtained from attending. This workshop aims to provide parents with a greater understanding about what students are expected to do at home and it will explore how parents can contribute to their son’s / daughter’s academic success. There will be no charge for attendance at this session.

Mr P Brooks
Assistant Principal (Administration)

The Greatest Christian Feast:

Easter is the greatest feast in the Christian calendar. On this Sunday, Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. For Catholics, Easter Sunday comes at the end of 40 days of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving known as Lent. Through spiritual struggle and self-denial, we have prepared ourselves to die spiritually with Christ on Good Friday, the day of his Crucifixion, so that we can rise again with him in new life on Easter.
Silver Awards
Congratulations to the following students who received Silver Awards at the last College Assembly.
Augustina Asabere  Yr 11 LaSalle
Chanel Biala  Yr 9 St Therese
In order to receive a Silver Award students must first receive 3 Bronze Awards. These awards are recognition of ongoing work and commitment to participation in the life of the College. These students have involved themselves fully as members of the community making outstanding efforts consistently. They have performed well academically, involved themselves in the extracurricular life of the College or been of service to members of the wider community. As a community we congratulate them and encourage them to continue in their good works.

Homework Help and Senior Study
The students at Good Samaritan are very lucky to have the opportunity to stay behind on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons in order to work in the library under the supervision of teachers. It is important to recognise that the teachers volunteer to stay behind, and supervise and assist students with their homework, assessment tasks and individual study. In order for this Homework Help / Senior Study to proceed smoothly the following procedures need to be followed.

• Students must have a signed note in their diary indicating that their parents give permission for them to remain behind at school.
• Students must sign into the library at the beginning of Homework Help and have their diaries open on their desk so that the supervising teacher can check for parent permission.
• Students must be in the library and working by 3.10pm
• Junior Students are not permitted to leave before 4.00pm
• Senior students may leave at any time between 4.00pm and 6.00pm but will not be permitted to re-enter the library if they leave.

Through the generosity and good will of the teachers at Good Samaritan this very successful practice has been in operation for some time, the students here are very lucky to have access to such a valuable resource.

Driver Courtesy
As anyone who drives their children to school could confirm, the traffic along Hoxton Park Rd, and coming in and out of the college bus bay of a morning is, to say the least, very challenging. Two things which we all need to keep in mind are the safety of the children, and being respectful of other drivers and pedestrians. In order to keep all of our children safe, please only drop off your sons/daughters in the bus bay—do not stop at the roundabout. I would also ask that all parents remain calm and respectful of other drivers and pedestrians. The role modelling that your son’s and daughter’s receive when they witness the way you interact with other drivers is very powerful. All of us make mistakes at times when driving—in the same way that we hope others are understanding about this, we too need to be understanding when other motorists are not perfect.

Mr P Scollard
Assistant Principal (Pastoral)

YOUTH MINISTRY CORNER
This week marks the official launch of World Youth Day 2011. I am sure we all remember the excitement of WYD 08 in Sydney and the vibrant ways our Catholic youth celebrated their faith. Next year, World Youth Day will be celebrated in Madrid with the theme “Planted and built up in Jesus Christ, firm in faith.” (cf Col 2:7). It is our hope that Good Samaritan Catholic College will be represented in this pilgrimage to Madrid. In term 2 information packs and expression of interest letters will go home to all year nine and ten students. It would be great to see students from our school make this incredible journey of faith!

Holy Week begins on Sunday with Palm/Passion Sunday. This begins the holiest week of our Church calendar. I encourage families to prepare during this week through Reconciliation. Reconciliation times in our parishes:

- **Good Shepherd**: Friday at 7:30 (after the Stations of the Cross)
  - Saturday 4pm – 5pm
- **Holy Spirit**: Tuesday 7pm onwards (Second Rite of Reconciliation)

I would also like to thank many of our students who are presenting the Passion of our Lord through a dramatic portrayal of the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday morning. It is encouraging to see these students actively involved in their faith. This performance will occur in the grounds of Good Shepherd School at 10.00am on Good Friday.

I wish everyone a very happy and holy Easter.

Mrs E Dadd
Youth Ministry Coordinator

The Feast of the Annunciation
This Thursday 25th of March is the feast of the Annunciation where the Angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would conceive Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit, when the Word would become flesh. This is known as the Miraculous Conception as it was a miracle the way that Mary conceived Jesus. Below is the prayer The Angelus which is said three times a day at 6am, 12 noon and 6pm to commemorate this occasion.

**The Angelus**

The Angel of the Lord declared Unto Mary:
And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.
Hail Mary....

Behold the handmaid of the Lord:
Be it done unto me according to thy word.
Hail Mary....

And the Word was made Flesh:
And dwelt among us.
Hail Mary....

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God,
that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:
*Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection, through the same Christ Our Lord.*

Amen.
FROM THE STUDENT WELFARE COORDINATOR

Every parent wants the best for their child. They want their sons and daughters to flourish, to be people who feel competent in the world, and to grow in positive ways. Parents hope that their children will develop good relationships with other people, to become people who accept themselves and to have a sense of purpose in life.

In this issue I would like to share with you some of the research of Felicia Huppert who is the director of the Wellbeing Institute and professor of psychology at the University of Cambridge in the UK. Felicia Huppert and her colleagues studied British women who have been followed since their birth in 1946. All sorts of information have been gathered on these women since infancy including their memories of how their parents behaved towards them up to the age of 16.

This study looked at the ways in which parental behaviours, values and practices influenced their children all through their lives. In fact, the people being studied are now in their mid to late 50s.

The findings reveal three dimensions of parenting that influenced their children’s well being:

- the degree of warmth and care – how warmly a parent responded to their child when they experienced difficulties – psychological care.
- the quality of engagement with what their children are doing
- the level of control, protection or intrusiveness

In general, the research found that the more a parent is caring and warm the better the child is on all the dimensions of wellbeing. The next thing is that the parents did need to be engaged and really interested in what the child was doing and the third one was that they had to be not too controlling, not over-protective, nor intrusive but rather give the child some sense of trust, some respect, some freedom while at the same time being quite clear about boundaries, about what behaviours were acceptable and what were not - authoritative parenting as opposed to authoritarian parenting.

This sounds a lot like common sense – and it is. Nevertheless, it is valuable to have our beliefs confirmed and to know we are on the right track. It is also fair to say that we are not perfect people and there will be times when we fall short of our best in parenting.

A final thought....

Year 12 are undertaking their half-yearly exams over the next two weeks and they will need your support as they endeavour to meet the challenges of doing their best. The stress they will be under needs your understanding and the necessary negotiations need to occur about the balance of study, work and leisure. They will also need a gentle reminder that they are still part of a family whose needs must also be considered.

Please contact at the College if you think I might be able to help in any way.

Mick Bell

Mr M Bell
Student Welfare Co-ordinator

YEAR 10 GEOGRAPHY EXCURSION

On Friday 26th February and Monday 15th March Year 10 Geography students attended a fieldwork excursion to Cronulla Beach.

Students were able to examine coastal management strategies and how the beach was changing over time. It gave students a practical experience which developed their fieldwork and research skills.

This experience provided year 10 students with the ability to construct a research action plan of their geographical findings. Students should be congratulated on their involvement and participation on the day.

YEAR 10 HISTORY EXCURSION

On 26th February and 15th March Year 10 visited the city of Sydney to examine locations included in their Stage 5 History syllabus. Starting at the War Memorial in Hyde Park, students gained an insight as to the creation and building of the memorial, as well as the reasoning behind some of their most famous statues. From there, students moved to the Domain to learn about the uses of it over time and the freedom which Australians enjoy at this public space. Continuing into the Royal Botanic Gardens, students explored the gardens dedicated to the Aboriginal Dreaming and use of the land. Finally, students moved to Bennelong Point, visiting the ‘Stop Vietnam War’ graffiti at the southern end of the point, which was indicative of Australian social conscience during the 1960’s and 1970’s. It was a day both enjoyable and educational.

YR 10 PEER NOMINATION AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students who were nominated by their peers for the way in which they represent themselves, their year group and college in; academic achievement and effort, student support, sport and extra curricular activities. This is great recognition of the contribution that these students have made over the year. Well done to: Ian Doculara, Sheron Edrisinghe, Maddison McPherson, Carina Bilotta, Lily Macapinlac, Jason Patto

Italian Proverb of the week

Finché c’è vita c’è speranza

As long as there is life there is hope
CSDA PUBLIC SPEAKING

This year the college had seven students make it through to the Zone Final of the CSDA Public Speaking competition at Santa Sabina College Strathfield. The standard of speakers at this level was very high and as a result only Justin Jarrett of year 10 proceeded to the final at Mary MacKillop College Wakeley. This was the first time Justin has made the final after missing out last year while speaking in a higher age division. While Justin was not awarded a place on the night, he delivered an outstanding speech on the plight of Lorenzo Odone and his parents’ determination to find a cure for his terminal illness. Using the topic “That’s what they all say”, Justin challenged the audience to never give up hope even when others tell you there is none. A powerful message that was not lost on the large audience who witnessed his speech. Reaching the final was a great effort as one of the adjudicators mentioned that over 150 speakers from across the Sydney Metropolitan Area participated in the year 10 division. So to make it to the final actually placed Justin in the top 12 of the competition. Once again I would like to thank the parents and staff who have supported all of our students in this competition. In particular Mr Lo Cascio, Sister Marj, Ms Raso, Mrs Castillo, Mr Dominish, Miss Molloy, Mrs Celia, Mr Turner and Miss Parsons.

Mr M Bradbury
Public Speaking Coordinator

VOICE OF YOUTH

On Wednesday 17th March the college had five students participate in the Rostrum Voice of Youth competition at OLMC Parramatta. Rostrum Voice of Youth is a national public speaking competition open to students from Catholic, public and independent schools from across Australia. Good Samaritan had Daniel Kamalaneson and Sinead Cummins speak in the junior division and Chanel Gronowski, Justin Jarrett and Maddison McPherson in the senior division.

In the junior division Daniel Kamalaneson came first in his room and will now move to the regional final later in the year. Daniel chose the topic ‘Dangerous Creatures’ to discuss the age old debate of nature versus nurture and asked the audience to beware the dangerous creature within. Justin Jarrett was runner up in his room for his speech on the influence of the media using the topic ‘Step in the Right Direction’. Justin’s speech questioned society’s acceptance of media interference in our own decision making and in particular looked at the influence of media mogul Rupert Murdoch. Unfortunately only one speaker from each room is allowed to progress to the next round meaning Justin only just missed out.

Sinead, Maddison, and Chanel also delivered fantastic speeches on the night but were unlucky not to receive a place in the next round. Sinead spoke about Hitler using the topic “Burning Bridges”, Maddison discussed whether being in Generation Y was a “Modern Curse”, while Chanel gave a passionate speech about the importance of science with the topic “Step in the Right Direction”.

Once again Good Samaritan was fortunate to have some very talented orators who are willing to give up their time to represent the college. It is also a credit to the college that we had a large contingent of parent and teacher supporters who attended on the night. Special thanks to Miss Molloy and Mrs Castillo for attending on the night and Ms Raso for assisting students prepare for the evening. Best of luck to Daniel as he now prepares for the regional final.

Mr M Bradbury
Public Speaking Coordinator
GOOD SAMARITAN CATHOLIC COLLEGE OPEN DAY

The following students are acknowledged for giving their time on Saturday May 13th to help with our Open Day. Their enthusiasm and dedication is very much appreciated. These students helped out in the areas of Science, TAS, CAPA, Business Services and around the school generally to create a wonderful day for our visitors.

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<th>Alexandra Abarca</th>
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**Congratulations** to Jessica Stikovic who competed at the Australian Junior Athletics Championships On Thursday 11th & Sat 13th March at Homebush. Jessica performed extremely well winning the Bronze medal in the Discus and placing 5th in the Shot Put.

*Well done Jessica!!*

**YR 7-8 GIRLS TOUCH FOOTBALL**

Congratulations to the girls’ touch football side who finished the MISA season as minor premiers. They won 3 games and drew 1 in the regular season and have been well led by team captain Hannah Brocklehurst. The girls now have the week off to train in preparation for the coming Grand Final. Good Luck girls. Special mention to Chloe Park who has been assistant coach this year.

The team is: Hannah Brocklehurst (c), Chanise Jamhour, Georgina Ciampa, Samantha Parke, Victoria Critten, Chloe McGee, Brittany Allison, Gemma Brocklehurst, Brooke Hellyer, Jacinta Gatto, Chloe Parke (Assistant Coach)

**Mr D Costin**

Team Coach

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**2010 NSW VIKINGS SCHOOLS FUTSAL COMPETITION**

Having been regional champions last year, the Good Samaritan Open Girls Futsal team had the weight of the world on their shoulders as they approached this year’s competition. However, the injection of new blood into the team and a confidence in their own abilities promised some more great things this time round.

Our initial group games proved challenging; however it seemed the longer the girls were on the court, the better they became. The moves were silky, the energy high and the teamwork unstoppable. The team finished top of their group undefeated, immediately securing a place in the Grand Final.

Our opponent: Holsworthy High School. They scored early on in the first half but the girls were undeterred. The match was tight, there were electrifying moments...until an “oh yes” moment reverberated through the Wenden Centre stadium.

It was 1-1. Extra time seemed imminent. There were just not enough minutes left to save the game. It was here that the girls dominated, scoring two late goals to finish convincing winners 3-1. Special mention must go to Isabella Pezzuto who scored a phenomenal hat trick in the final.

The girls were absolutely amazing. They were dedicated and focused and when the pressure was the most paralysing, they found a way to pull through and cement Good Samaritan’s status as local Futsal champions.

Congratulations to Bianca Adattini, Montana Bolzan, Lana Ferreira (c), Domenica Marasco, Kobey Martin, Isabella Pezzuto, Kristy Walker, Latoya Walker and Natalie Yelda. We now await the Champion of Champions competition later this year.

**Ms M Boggs**

Coach

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**SOUTHERN SYDNEY SPORT**

**Rugby League**

On the 17th March a number of students were selected to represent the college in Southern Sydney Rugby League. Southern Sydney sent two teams to trial on the day for the Sydney Independent team. On the day the Opens side containing Daniel Cassone and John Kennedy won both their games. Whilst the Under 15’s containing John Pellegrini and Vince Romolo managed to pick up the one win from three games. The sides were coached on the day by Mr Costin, Mr Teuma and assisted by Mr Wheeler.

**Soccer**

On the 18th March two of our students trialled for the Southern Sydney Soccer team at Marconi Playing fields. Within the Southern Sydney region two squads were selected in an East v West format. Unfortunately a number of students were unable to attend the trial due to an SLR Excursion after being selected for the West side. Tom Micev attended the Opens Boys trial whilst Isabella Pezzuto, Montana Bolzan and Bianca Adattini were selected to trial for the Open Girls. From the trials Isabella, Montana and Bianca were selected to represent Southern Sydney in the Opens Girls team. We wish the girls the best of luck as they represent Southern Sydney at the next level.

**Swimming**

Congratulations to Chanelle Finau who has been selected to compete for Southern Sydney in Swimming at the Homebush Aquatic Centre Olympic Park on Tuesday 27th April. We wish Chanelle all the best as she represents the college on the day.

**National Cycling Championships**

Congratulations to Scott Carver from Year 10 who was part of the U/17’s New South Wales Team Pursuit that won the Silver medal in Melbourne on Friday 19th March.

**Mr S Zahra, External Sport Coordinator**
ATTENTION—REHEATING OF LUNCHBOX FOOD

The canteen is responsible for the sale of safe food. Any food from the canteen must fully comply with the Food Safety Standards Legislation.

Over the last year, students have been able to reheat food brought from outside the canteen using one of our microwaves. The Canteen Association has notified us that this is not a safe practice and may contravene occupational health and safety as well as food preparation guidelines.

The safe preparation and temperature of food kept in a student’s care, without appropriate cooling cannot be guaranteed to be within safe temperature guidelines. As a result and with regret, we inform you that from Term 2 students will no longer be able to reheat any food not prepared by the canteen.

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

PARENT LINE  132055
Confidential Help 9am—4.40pm Mon to Saturday

CAN YOU HELP? The TAS Department are in need of your spare newspapers!!!!

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.