Dear Parents and Friends of the college

Over the last two weeks, the college enrolment team has been conducting interviews for students who wish to enrol in 2011. It has been gratifying to see the positive and enthusiastic approaches adopted by these students and their parents. It is also very pleasing to note that many of the students who wish to attend Good Samaritan, wish to do so because of the good name the college has established in the wider community. This good name is the result of students who commit to doing the right thing and promote Good Samaritan. This has been evident throughout this year, with outstanding reports of students on excursions. As a college, we have expectations and many individuals strive to meet these expectations, either personally or in a group setting. If everyone meets the expectations of our college then everyone attending the college will benefit. I thank and praise those students who have made a conscious effort to promote the good name of the college this year.

Last Wednesday, the college conducted a follow-up evening for parents and students related to study skills. I thank all of those parents who chose to attend the evening with their children. I know that those in attendance gained a great deal from the experience and the students now have an opportunity to improve their performance. Unfortunately, one of the more disappointing aspects of the evening was the small number of parents in attendance. According to John Hattie, Professor of Education and Director of Visible Learning at the University of Auckland - parental aspirations and expectations of student achievement, have the strongest relationship with student achievement. Thus, parents need to hold high aspirations and expectations for their children, and schools need to work, in partnership with parents, to make their expectations appropriately high and challenging, and then work in partnership with children and the home, to realize and even surpass these expectations. It is the beliefs of adults in the home, rather than structure of families and homes, that leads to achievement. With this in mind, it is important that parents take the opportunity to travel the academic journey with their children, and to have high expectations and aspirations. In order to do this, I encourage parents to take advantage of evenings, such as last Wednesday, which will help to reinforce academic expectations.

On Sunday May 23, I had the pleasure of attending the 40th Annual Mass and Luncheon at Liverpool Catholic Club. At the luncheon the Dux students from the local catholic schools were acknowledged and presented with a scholarship, to cover the costs of the first year of university. Our 2009 Dux, Luen Samonte, was presented with this generous gift. Once again, I acknowledge and thank the Liverpool Catholic Club Directors, for their ongoing support and generosity. I also thank Luen, for her acknowledgement of her school, her teachers, her family and her God, as contributing to her success.

Last Monday, at the staff meeting, teachers had the opportunity to hear the latest news on the National Curriculum. Consultation for Kindergarten to Year 10 English, Mathematics, Science and History closed on May 30, with teachers from the college giving feedback in
different forums. At present, the senior curriculum documents are available for English, Science, Mathematics and History with junior Geography being available shortly. Teachers have provided feedback in a number of ways and parents can also do so by accessing the ACARA site at www.acara.edu.au. I encourage parents to become familiar with the directions of the National Curriculum so that they will have a clear understanding, and some say, in future directions in education.

Last week, the college staff attended a staff spirituality day, led by Fr Richard Leonard. The theme of the day was “A Survival Guide to Sane Spirituality in Catholic Education”. It was an enlightening and wonderful experience, which challenged each of us to consider the means by which we bring Jesus Christ to each of our students and different ways in which we can proclaim his message of love.

On Tuesday, May 25, twenty Year 10 Students went to St Mary’s Cathedral to celebrate the Feast of Mary Help of Christians. The Mass celebrated by Cardinal Pell was attended by students from Catholic secondary schools across the archdiocese. It was certainly a fitting way to honour our patron saint. I thank Miss Najdek and the students for the wonderful manner in which they represented the college.

Next Sunday, we acknowledge the Feast of Corpus Christi. This is an opportunity for us to celebrate the wonderful gift of Jesus in the Eucharist. It is also a reminder of the love that Jesus has for us and His constant presence in our lives. This Sunday, the opportunity exists to celebrate the feast in the “Walk with Christ”, which is a procession from St Patrick’s Church Hill to St Mary’s Cathedral in Sydney. This procession begins at 2.30pm.

God Bless

Mr J Lo Cascio
PRINCIPAL

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL (PASTORAL CARE)

WALKATHON 2010
Friday 11th June

By the time this newsletter makes it home, it will be less than a week until our 2010 Walkathon. Many thanks to those parents and students who have gone out of their way to gain sponsorship for this very important fundraiser. As you may have noticed, the new college hall and chapel are fast approaching completion and the funds raised from the Walkathon will go towards the furnishing and fitting out of these wonderful new facilities.

We have set ourselves a realistic target of $35,000. In order to reach this target, we need all students to raise a minimum of $30. Next Friday will be a great community day with everyone involved in various ways.

As students meet this minimum standard of $30, their names will go into the prize draw. For each additional $10 they raise, they will get an extra ticket. At present, our prize pool is in excess of $1000 with a Nintendo Wii Console up for grabs, four I-Pod Nano’s and a number of I -Tunes and Westfield Gift cards. Any parent who would like to contribute to the prize pool or is able to help on the day is encouraged to contact the college office.

Thank you, in advance, for your great support in this matter.

Mr P Scollard
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL (PASTORAL)

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

The very best nourishment of our human psyche tends to occur when one is at the end of a day, either fatigued or stressed. We all know these moments. This is when we are most hungry – not for food, but for God’s graces instead.

Sometimes a special something appears out of nowhere to assist us and then disappears. It often makes us wonder … was that a person or a spirit? It may be a sudden gust of luck that brings something very needed in through the door; it may be the spark or a great idea or a new approach; it might be something as simple as a let up in pressure, a ready solution, or a conversation over breakfast.

This is not a fairy tale we are talking about now, but real life. This is the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. He feeds us, pulls us up, shows us the right passage or clears our vision. It pushes us through the channel to the next step, the next experience in learning the great value in serving others.

So, Holy Spirit, Bless our communities and give us the wisdom to distinguish between the important and the unimportant, the true and the false, the trivial and the significant.

... Lord hear us ...
... Lord hear our prayer ...
Dear Parents

Having last year seen the top rating film SLUM DOG MILLIONAIRE, one cannot help but make comparisons with how some teenagers struggle to live and how privileged our adolescents are. To quote Andrew Mullins again from his book PARENTING FOR CHARACTER, “Young persons today have a great many privileges: full room and board, loving parents—usually, access to education, a great variety of entertainment, relative freedom of movement, ease of communication, etc.

With these privileges must come the serious responsibility of using them well. This means doing jobs for the welfare of the family, studying very hard, using entertainment in moderation and not as an end in itself, using cars responsibly, using mobiles sensibly, and so on.

He goes on to write that children will only see time as a gift, and develop strong habits of service, if these qualities are modelled by the adults they admire.

These are serious issues, says Andrew. For example, a 16 year old student who is not studying a solid 2 plus hours each night is not showing responsibility in keeping with the privilege of attending school full-time and thereby being exempted from other full-time work. Alarming statistics tell us that 121 million children today are deprived of education. In many cultures, too, 15 year olds work or worked as adults. Teenage freeloading is a 20th century invention, according to Andrew.

One such student, who did appreciate her education, was our Dux from last year, Luen Samonte, who when speaking to an Assembly, which celebrated her achievements, told our present students that it is a privilege to be given the opportunity of schooling and exhorted them to make the most of it.

I can fully appreciate that parenting adolescents today is no easy task. My prayers are with you!

Sr Marj

On Friday 21st May, 30 students from Years 9-12 were involved in “Believe Catechesis” at All Saints Catholic Church. These students spent the evening socialising with other young Catholics in a night of music and drama. The social event was followed by Catechesis hosted by the Catholic Youth Service and later led by His Eminence Cardinal George Pell. Cardinal Pell spoke to the gathering about the theme “Without God, we are nothing”. During this time, the sacrament of Reconciliation was offered and many of our students took this opportunity readily. I commend our students on their exceptional behaviour on the night, and also on their active commitment towards their faith. I would also like to thank Mr Lo Cascio, Mr Costin and Ms Raso for their attendance on the night.

Last Thursday and Friday, ten Year 10 students from the Evangelisation Group attended a two day Evangelisation Retreat at Stanwell Tops hosted by the Catholic Education Office of the Southern Region. These students participated in many activities and forums that allowed them to brainstorm ways they can be evangelists within their schools. Our students were active in expressing their faith formation through the sacrament of Reconciliation and in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. I was incredibly proud of the way these students represented the College. I would like to thank Mr Kevin Griffiths for facilitating the retreat and making it such a positive experience for the Evangelisation Group.

Upcoming Events:

**6th June 2010: ‘Walk With Christ’**: This Sunday is the Feast of Corpus Christi. Join thousands of Catholics as we ‘Walk With Christ’ in a Procession through the streets of Sydney. Cardinal George Pell will lead the Procession and celebrate the Solemn Benediction. The procession will commence at 2:30pm from St. Patrick’s Church Hill, Wynyard and continue to St. Mary’s Cathedral.

**11th -12th June 2010**: The ‘Flock’ Youth Group of Good Shepherd Parish will be hosting a Winter Sleep Out for the St. Vincent De Paul Winter Appeal. This is an event organised to encourage awareness of the issues surrounding the homeless in our area. The evening will include prayer and reflection, workshops, and an address by Bro. Pat Hurley. The morning will include Adoration and Benediction. There is a $10 admission fee to the event. If any student is interested in attending this event, they are encouraged to collect a registration form from Good Shepherd Parish. Please see Mrs Dadd for further details.

**25th-27th June**: ‘Convivio’ is a Congress for Catholic Youth. It is an occasion for the youth to deepen in their relationship with the Lord Jesus, themselves and others. During one weekend, students from Years 10, 11 and 12 meet to reflect on issues that affect our world today, aiming to create solutions based on the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Convivio 2010 will be held on the weekend of the 25th-27th June at Notre Dame University, Broadway. It would be great to have representatives from Good Samaritan Catholic College engage in such an enriching experience.

If any students from Years 10, 11 or 12 are interested, please see Mrs Dadd for more details.

Mrs L Dadd
CELEBRATING SUCCESS IN CAPA - YR 11 MUSIC 1 COMPOSITION

One of the three learning experiences in the Year 11 Music 1 course is Composition. This component of the course requires students to compose music within a context using their preferred computer software.

The following three compositions were composed using the Finale Notepad Software at the college under the context of 'Music for Small Ensembles':

Pierre Goorkiz, Renmark Marte and William Blandino demonstrated a clear and sophisticated understanding of compositional techniques in their recent composition assessment task and achieved an outstanding grade for their ability to successfully create a melody, harmony, accompaniment, suitable orchestration and analysis of the six concepts of music within their works.

Mrs T Benjamin

Science Course #2 – Science (Applied Chemistry)

**ATAR** – 74.45 (UTS)

**Prerequisite Subjects** –
* Any two units of Science
* Any two units of English
* Mathematics

**Recommended Subjects** –
* Chemistry
* Physics
* Mathematics Extension 1

**Career Opportunities** –
Positions in analytical, environmental and toxicological chemistry. Graduates work for research organisations such as universities and CSIRO, filling pivotal roles in a number of companies and organisations (e.g. oil and pharmaceutical industries, government and private analytical laboratories) and many other science- and technology-based enterprises.

*For more information, see Ms Flocco or Mrs Hewitt.*
Students at Good Samaritan Catholic College are currently preparing for the first ever CASPA Concert in our region which will be held at our NEW College Hall on Wednesday 1st of September. Students are involved in music, dance, vocals, multimedia, ICT, sound, catering, lights, stage crew and ticketing.

Rehearsals have commenced and students are enthusiastically preparing in their areas of expertise. We would like to congratulate those students involved for their ongoing commitment to this wonderful event!

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### RYDA EXCURSION

- **FACT** Young people under 26 years of age comprise of only 15% of driver licenses.
- **FACT** 36% of young people under 26 years of age are involved in road fatalities.
- **FACT** A 17 year old driver with a P1 license is about 4 times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash than a driver aged 26 years of age or older.
- **FACT** The biggest killer of young drivers is speeding. 80% of these are male.

*Source* RTA Crash Statistics

Unfortunately, these horrific statistics are the figures we are faced with here in Australia. We are constantly reminded of these statistics each time we read of another fatality on our roads involving our young men and women. It is with these concerns, that our Year 11 students attended an invaluable excursion to RYDA Australia at Penrith on Thursday 13th May.

RYDA is a road safety education program, aimed at equipping young people with the knowledge needed to be safe on our roads. RYDA is a community-based initiative of Rotary and it involves a one day excursion.

The day involved six interactive sessions presented by road safety professionals. These included : Hazard Perception; Stopping Distances; Safe Celebrating; Police : Your Choice; Financial Obligations of buying and owning a car; and a powerful presentation by a car crash survivor.

The students were totally involved in all the sessions and were willing participants in all the activities. It was certainly a valuable experience for all involved, including those of us not in the under 25 years old age bracket!!

Thank you to the teachers who attended—Mr Bagot, Mrs Castillo, Mrs Doran, Mrs Dadd and Mr Katalinic. We all hope that the day provided our students with helpful advice regarding road safety and that they remember that owning and driving a car brings rights and responsibilities.
GOOD SAMARITAN CATHOLIC COLLEGE PUBLIC SPEAKING AND DEBATING

Sydney Morning Herald Plain English Speaking Competition

Thursday 27th May at Sydney Girls High School, Justin Jarrett participated in the South West Sydney Regional Final of the SMH Plain English Speaking competition. Justin had reached this stage after winning the local final two weeks earlier. The standard of competition at this round was very high with all twelve speakers delivering terrific speeches. Once again Justin was the youngest participant with most speakers coming from Year 12. Despite delivering two outstanding speeches on the day, Justin unfortunately missed out on a place in the State Final of the competition. Justin’s commitment to public speaking was evident not only in the presentation of his speeches but also in the way he accepted all feedback from the panel of adjudicators with grace. There is no doubt that Justin will use this feedback to make it further in the competition next year.

Debating Update

After 5 rounds of the competition Good Samaritan has two teams in a position to progress to the finals. Both the Year 10 and Senior teams have only lost one debate throughout the season. In round 4 the Year 10 team had an emphatic win against Mary MacKillop College. Unfortunately our Senior team suffered a disappointing loss in their debate against All Saints Senior B team. A win would have guaranteed an early spot in the Grand Final but, regrettably, they missed that opportunity. All Good Samaritan teams had the bye in round 5 setting up a nervous final round for the Year 10 and Senior teams who both must win their debates against All Saints Boys and All Saints Senior A teams to remain in contention. The final round of the regular season will be held at the college on Friday 4th June.

Mr M Bradbury
Public Speaking and Debating Coordinator

STUDENT LEADERSHIP FORUM

On the 1st June, six senior student leader representatives, accompanied by Mrs Kennedy, were chosen to attend a leadership skills forum at Patrician Brothers College, Fairfield. Three students were chosen from year eleven; Rebecca Arcuri, Erika Brocklehurst and Damien Carson, along with three from year twelve; Damian Ferreri, Jennifer Awad and Jessica Ciccone. The day included speakers from the hosting school, as well as guest speakers; the Honourable John Howard, Father Chris Riley and Mr Alan Jones. Morning tea and lunch were served by the school for all those participating in the event.

Besides the Good Samaritan team, were a large number of other Catholic schools from across the state, each with their own chosen representatives. Being involved in the event personally, the day turned out to be extremely insightful and memorable, which was expected from the vast experience the speakers acquired over the matter of leadership. Supplemented with free food, altogether the entire day was a blast!

Many inspirational speeches were presented by the guest speakers. The groups favourite being what Father Chris Riley had to say about his life experience advocating the underprivileged youth of Australia. Much was learnt from the first guest speaker, Mr John Howard and his wise words about how to be a leader. The four main aspects of his speech being - Listening, Courtesy, Judgement and Resilience. The final speaker of the day was Mr Allan Jones, who shed light from his perspective on youth attitudes and opportunities. Although his views were incredibly biased in our opinion, the Good Samaritan group, along with the whole audience, were awestruck by the sheer knowledge Mr Jones possessed on the topic.

Eventually the day came to an end and we headed back for school. The journey home stood out over the trip to the venue, as it was filled with discussion about the ideas raised during the day. The presentations were dominated with male leadership models, which upset members of the Good Samaritan group. This was the disappointing part about the day, along with some disagreements from our group, who challenged the views of Mr Howard and Mr Jones. In the end, everything went smoothly and a lot was learnt about leadership, because whether we agreed with it or not, we still learnt that “Success is not final, failure is not fatal, it is the courage to continue that counts”. Quote Winston Churchill.

Written By Damien Carson

De Paul House Annual ‘Vinnies’ Winter Appeal

Until the end of term, De Paul house is conducting its annual winter appeal on behalf of Vinnies. Families are asked to ‘clean out the wardrobes’ and donate clothing for those ‘going cold’ this winter. Clothing, jumpers, shirts, pants, beanies, scarves and blankets are all welcome. Two collection bins are located in the school; one outside the library and one outside ‘P’Block. Students and parents are welcome to ‘drop off’ each day into one of these bins. As always, thanks in advance for your generosity of spirit. The appeal will continue until the end of term.
World Maths Day was celebrated in March this year with a world record being set for the second consecutive year by students from around the globe. Good Samaritan Mathematicians did their part by contributing thousands of correctly answered questions in a limited time period and are now in the record books! One student in particular excelled above and beyond the limits of math infinity to gain recognition by the event organisers. On behalf of the Good Samaritan Mathematics Department I would like to congratulate Shedona Pulumbarit from Year 10 who gained 8th place in Australia in the 14-18 Yrs division during our World Maths Day event. This is an outstanding achievement as over half a million students from Australia participated in this mathematical mayhem. Well done Shedona, we are extremely proud of your efforts.
Good Samaritan Catholic College
Walkathon
Friday 11th June
2010

ITALIAN PROVERB OF THE WEEK
Gli amici sono la famiglia che scegliamo per noi stessi
Friends are the family we choose for ourselves

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

PARENT LINE 132055 or 1300 301300
Confidential Help 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

LIFELINE 131 114
24 hours, 7 days a week telephone service

Quality education for ALL children

67% of all NSW students are in Government schools

33% of all NSW students are in Non-Government schools like yours

Council of Catholic School Parents
Advocacy and Support for all parents
www.ccsp.catholic.edu.au No.3