Dear Parents,

Last week we celebrated the contribution that our indigenous students make to our community at our NAIDOC Assembly. Our Aboriginal students took a leadership role in the liturgy and it was terrific to see the pride that they have in their heritage. We were fortunate to have a number of Aboriginal elders and other special guests present and we thank Aunty Norma for her inspirational address. Mrs Bridges, the Adviser on Aboriginal Education for the Catholic Education Office, led us in the ‘Prayer of the Aboriginal People’:

Father of all. You gave us the Dreaming.
You have spoken to us through our beliefs.
You then made your love clear to us in the person of Jesus.
We thank you for your care.
You own us, you are our hope.
Make us strong as we face the problems of change.
We ask you to help the people of Australia to listen to us and respect our culture.
Make the knowledge of you go strong in all people, so that you can be at home in us and we can make a home for everyone in our land.

Thank you to Mr Kingsman and Mrs Brocklehurst for organising the liturgy and to our indigenous students - Hayley Ross-Dawson, Benjamin Bailey, Adam Monti, Nakkiah Simpson, Christopher Lichaa, Taylor Ellis, Aaron Castle, Jessica Monti, Jacob Castle, Monique Beale and Grace Lichaa for their participation.

World Youth Day is fast approaching and Good Samaritan has eleven students travelling to Madrid. Students were commissioned by Bishop Julian Porteous at a ceremony at St Mary’s Cathedral this week and they will be commissioned by their parishes over the next couple of weeks. Our school community joined with them in prayer at our College Liturgy of Commissioning on Wednesday. We know that they will be outstanding ambassadors for their school and country, that this will be a significant event in their faith journey and that they will experience the shared pride in our Catholic heritage that was evidenced in Sydney three years ago.

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Congratulations to our Senior and Year 10 debating teams. Our senior team defeated All Saints Senior Catholic College in a closely contested final last Friday. The adjudicators commented on the exceptionally high standard of the debate and commended the Good Samaritan team for their definition of the topic, their clear arguments and the manner in which they worked together as a team.

Congratulations to Justin Jarrett, Maddison McPherson and Joseph Ragusa. We also congratulate our Year 10 team – Sinead Cummins, Konrad Ryzak, Bonnie Zivcic and Joyce Mondalek who were runners-up to Freeman Catholic College. I take this opportunity to sincerely thank Mr Bradbury and his team of coaches and adjudicators – Mr Turner, Ms Bilaver, Mrs Castillo, Ms Fegatilli, Miss Parsons, Mr O’Sullivan, Mr Kingsman and Mr Dominish. The commitment and passion of the teachers is definitely transmitted to the students.

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Well done to our other Good Samaritan ‘stars’:

- Our Gold Award winners – Mark Bawalan, Hannah Gilvear, Christopher Michael, Jacqueline Da Silva, Zoe Tisher, Erika Brocklehurst, William Ku, Natalie Perre (all from Year 12) and Carina Bilotta (Year 11).
- Our athletics team who competed in the SSSC Athletics Carnival on Tuesday. Eleven of our students will now represent Southern Sydney in the NSW Combined Catholic Colleges Carnival – our best effort ever.
- Our senior futsal teams who performed exceptionally well in the state finals last week.
- William Li and Andrew Mahfouz who made the ‘Year 7 Top 10’ in the Daily Telegraph Spelling Bee.
- Karina Donoso (Year 12) who was placed second in the ‘World Dance Solo’ division in the recent, and very prestigious, Sydney Eisteddfod.
I remind parents that students must take responsibility for any electronic devices (mobile phones, ipods etc.) brought to school. It is always extremely upsetting for families when expensive devices go missing but unfortunately once this occurs it is almost impossible to retrieve them. This, plus the huge number of investigative hours, is the reason why we clearly state in the diary that the College takes no responsibility for electronic devices brought to school. My advice is always that there is no need for students to have mobile phones at school except for emergency situations. If this is the case then they should be kept with students at all times or secured in lockers.

Ms Jane Donovan
Principal

STUDY SKILLS TIP FOR JULY: Improving your study skills

Study skills can be found under a variety of different labels in schools: effective learning skills, learning to learn skills, metacognitive skills, self-regulating skills, independent learning skills. Whatever label you like to use, study skills refers to the group of transferable skills that help students work more effectively at home, manage their workload, and study efficiently for tests and exams. These are skills that help students reach their personal academic potential at school and beyond.

Equipping students with skills that help them navigate the mire of school academic expectations and assessments is but one ingredient in the recipe of students achieving their personal academic potential. Other contributing factors are, for example, teachers, teaching style, parents, individual ability, motivation and a supportive learning environment—just to name a few! However, fostering the development of study skills gives students a greater chance of reaching their academic potential in a more efficient and effective way than those without these skills.

How do students develop these skills? Some students may develop these skills in primary school, some through sharing or modelling with friends or relatives. For some it is through personal trial and error or assistance from parents. Teachers also embed many of these skills into their curriculum and the school looks for opportunities to develop these skills whenever possible.

Students at our school also have the advantage of being able to work on developing these skills at home, in their own time, and at their own pace. The Study Skills Handbook site, www.studyskillshandbook.com.au is designed to equip students with the skills they need to help them work towards achieving their academic potential.

Simply login with the details below, choose a unit to work through and start improving your study skills today!

User name: forgsconly
Password: 48results

Mr P Brooks
Assistant Principal

School Liturgy & Assembly
Wednesday 27th July

Silver Award recipient Monika Carabello

St Vincent De Paul Badge recipient Aldric Angeles

Good Samaritan, an Asthma Friendly School

At the end of last term the staff at Good Samaritan completed 2 hours of training with the Asthma Foundation of NSW so that we are all prepared to respond to the needs of students at the College with Asthma. Whilst we are well equipped to respond to students who have asthma attacks one thing was very clear. The best way to manage asthma is for students to be responsible for taking their prescribed preventer medication and to carry their reliever medication (often Ventolin) with them at all times. As a general rule, the problems we have at school with asthma arise when students do not have any medication with them. If your son or daughter is an asthmatic please speak to them about ensuring that they always have their asthma medication with them. If they are leaving the school premises to go on an excursion, please indicate on the permission slip that they need to have their asthma medication with them.

If you need further information about managing your son or daughters asthma, then the Asthma Foundations website http://www.asthmafoundation.org.au/ and your local General Practitioner are good places to start.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Mr P Scollard
Assistant Principal
Welcome back to Term Three! The year is rushing by. We finished last term with parent/teacher/student interviews looking at your children’s reports and mapping out strategies for a more successful second semester. I hope that your sons and daughters are focused on putting these strategies into action from the very first week of this term.

During the holidays I read an article that looked at how parents play the most significant role in teaching their children to be successful human beings. The article was written by Helen Splarn from the Australian Childhood Foundation. I’d like to share it with you. It is reprinted in part, below.

In a ‘me’ world where the media is constantly telling young people that they can be anything they want to be, or have anything they want to have, it is difficult for parents to teach a sense of ‘other’ to their children.

In an effort to teach self esteem we have inadvertently installed a need to be outstanding just to be acceptable. The pressure to succeed and attain is huge on young people.

Psychologist Polly Young-Eisendrath, author of The Self Esteem Trap (Hachette), believes that “These approaches have produced a few generations of young adults who are obsessed with themselves, feel they need to do something exceptional in order to be OK, are restless and unable to enter adult life, feel easily humiliated and hold themselves back from committing to a career or relationship in case there’s something better out there.”

The skills children really need in order to succeed in life, according to the experts, are compassion, empathy and understanding; to be aware of others and how your actions have consequences and affect other people around you.

Andrew Fuller, clinical psychologist and Generation Next speaker says that a good place to start building an awareness of others in a child is by showing them trust. “Trust your child- nothing builds confidence more than trust. One of the best ways of communicating your trust is to ask your child for help. Requesting assistance communicates to a child that you regard them as capable and competent. Letting your children cook with you can be a good place to start”.

Dr Joe Tucci, chief executive officer of the Australian Childhood Foundation, and Right 2 Childhood speaker feels that “Empathy isn’t inherent. It must be taught and modelled and then the child needs to practise and rehearse. Helping your child to recognise and know how another person may feel and to also help them name how they feel, goes a long way to teaching empathy.”

One way to teach children compassion is to get them to interact with animals. A pet is a fantastic way for a child to bond with another living creature while learning to understand the feelings, wants and needs of others.

For Danielle Nelson, of the Animal Welfare League NSW says “Animals teach children to understand and be respectful to not only animals, but to their friends and family. The more you care for a pet, the more they love you. Children learn they get out what they put in.”

Dr Joe Tucci, suggests 3 ways to encourage a child’s compassion for others:

Make a plan as a family to do something that has a broader community or even global impact. This could be sponsoring a child in need, lessening your family’s carbon footprint or volunteering for a cause.

See then discuss a movie in which people help others. This is a fun and entertaining way to teach compassion because kids love movies.

Recognise acts of kindness undertaken by your child. For example if you see your child sharing their toys or food, call attention to the act and talk about how that act made everyone feel as well as what the feelings could have been if the act of kindness hadn’t happened.

I hope you are able to discuss some of the ideas presented in the article with your sons and daughters. Such a conversation can provide a wonderful opportunity to speak about the development of values that will enrich your children’s lives and help to build family relationships.

Best wishes,

Mr M Bell
Student Welfare Coordinator

Congratulations to William Li and Andrew Mahfouz for achieving a top 10 position on the Weekly Top Ten Spelling Bee ladder in the Year 7 category. Their scores were an impressive 175 and 166 points respectively.

The Spelling Bee runs online and allows students to test their spelling skills against their peers. It is open to all students in NSW in Years 7-12. If you would like to register, log on to the site or see Ms Fegatilli for more details.
Gifted Education

Welcome back to Term 3. Hope your holidays were relaxing but also creative and inspirational! There is much happening this semester in terms of Gifted Education. Many of the CEO programmes are starting and other Gifted events are getting into swing.

The Sparkathon for Year 7 students will occur in August and several students have been encouraged to demonstrate their creativity and apply for a place on the team. Gifted writers in Year 9 have been working on their skills and applications for The Write Stuff are well underway. Creative, critical and collaborative thinkers from Year 9 and 10 have been encouraged to enter Tournament of the Minds which will be showcased in August. Some talented scientists have been selected as part of the STARS (Science Thinking and Research Skills) Challenge. If you have not been selected, remember to work hard and check out the opportunities that may be coming up in the future. Think about showing some initiative and taking part in an individual project. There are many ideas on the wiki in MY Classes at http://giftededucationgssc.wikispaces.com

Remember to check out http://www.scienceweek.gov.au/Pages/index.aspx and keep up to date with the events of Science Week coming up in August. There are 85 events happening in NSW and a perfect way to develop your scientific interest and skills.

Mrs C Ong,
Gifted Education

NAIDOC Assembly

A big thank you to all staff and parents for their patience and time leading up to our departure for World Youth Day. We would especially like to thank Mr Kingsman & Ms Donovan for all their support and encouragement throughout the year. Please keep us in your prayers while we make our pilgrimage to Italy & Spain.

Michaela Hodge, Renee Boreta, Nicole Cameron, Casey Goad, Monique Brown, Laura Dixon, Melissa Young, Kobey Martin, Maddison McPherson, Melissa Arndell, Kristy Walker, Mr Badolato & Miss Welsh

World Youth Day Corner
11 DAYS TILL GSSC LEAVE FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY
MADRID

Planted and built up in Jesus Christ, firm in the faith. (Colossians 2:7)

WYD Commissioning
Wednesday 27th July, 2011
Public Speaking and Debating

Mr M Bradbury

Both teams worked incredibly hard to prepare for the final by spending an entire day of the holidays developing their skills. Such was the commitment and dedication shown to this extra-curricular activity.

On the night our Year 10 developed a great argument on the topic “That Australia is becoming too much like America” but were unfortunately beaten by Freeman. It is to be said that our students were as gracious in defeat as they had been in victory and left with their heads firmly raised in the air.

The stars of the night were our Senior A team who clinched the championship from All Saints Senior College Casula for the very first time in the competition’s history. Their win now cements this team as one of the finest debating teams in the history of the college having won four out of five times. While many may see their victory as an expected outcome of an experienced team, this year’s win stands out as their finest hour. At the half way mark of the season, the team had experienced defeats two weeks in a row. One of these defeats came at the hands of the undefeated All Saints team who they would later face in the final. Not only this, but they needed to beat our Senior B team twice in order to qualify for the Grand Final. To reach the Grand Final was, therefore, an accomplishment in itself and demonstrates the determination and mental toughness of each of the three students.

On the night itself, each of the three speakers delivered outstanding speeches and took the All Saints team by surprise. How was it possible that a team they had defeated earlier in the year had improved so much in the space of a few weeks? Arguing in favour of feminism our team secured victory and were rewarded for all of their hard work. Congratulations to Ms Fegatilli for taking on the difficult role as coach in a year that was always going to be the most challenging of their debating careers. Similar mention should go to Mrs Castillo for looking after our two Year 10 teams as there is no doubt the epic battles between our Year 10 Senior team and Year 11 helped prepare the Senior A team for a grandstand performance to finish the year.

It would also be a remiss of me not to thank the many staff who regularly gave their time to assist the operation of the curricular activity. You must also be made to Mrs Adattini, Mrs Bolzan, Mrs Pacchiarotta and Ms Donovan for their unwavering support. The day, to just miss out on victory against Elderslie High. Considering this school came top of the group, it shows the determination and grit of the girls to only lose 1-0. Congratulations must be extended to the girls for qualifying for this championship and really making a fist of it late in the day. A very special thank you must also be made to Mrs Adattini, Mrs Bolzan, Mrs Pacchiarotta and Ms Donovan for their unwavering support. The team: Bianca Adattini, Montana Bolzan (Captain), Jacqueline Da Silva, Kobey Martin, Nika Morozoff, Alyssa Pacchiarotta, Anna Santaguida, and Kristy Walker.

Mr M Bradbury

Public Speaking and Debating

On Friday 22nd July the 2011 SWCCDA Debating competition came to a close at All Saints Boys Liverpool. After winning their elimination debate against Clancy College three days earlier, our Year 10 team of Bonnie Zivic, Konrad Rybak, Sinead Cummins and Joyce Mondalek joined our Senior A team of Maddison McPherson, Joseph Ragusa and Justin Jarrett as grand finalists in the competition.

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Mr M Bradbury

Public Speaking and Debating

NSW Boys Futsal Championships

On Monday the College Senior Boys Futsal team competed in the NSW State Futsal Championships at Penrith Sports Stadium. The boys began their campaign extremely well winning the first game against St John’s Park High School. They dictated the pace in which the game was played coming away with a 5-3 win. The second game was a far more physical encounter and the speed in which the game was played at times upset the boy’s pattern of play, unfortunately resulting in a 3-5 loss to East Hills Boys High. The third game within our pool was against St Gregory’s College Campbelltown. The boys began this game very confidently and were first to score. They continued to dominate throughout the game to win the match 8-3 and a chance to go to the final rounds. The boy’s commitment to playing in this competition was exemplary and a special mention must go the enthusiasm of Joseph Raso (keeper) who put his body on the line on numerous occasions.

However, disappointment consumed the boys shortly after. The scoreboard showed that +5 goal difference was not going to see us advance to the final rounds as a team in another pool gained +6 goal difference. This meant that they advanced through to the final rounds and we were eliminated from the competition.

Special thanks go to the parents who gave up their time to support the boys, and particularly Andy Lancaster (NSW and National Futsal coach) who attended one of the boys training sessions and was there to offer his expertise on the day, which was extremely valuable.

The boys are to be congratulated on their performance even though they were very disappointed with the result. They performed to the best of their ability and showed outstanding sportsmanship throughout the day. They were a pleasure to be associated with.

It should also be acknowledged that Luca Marongiu and Andre Gioiosa are in Year 10 and only 15 years of age and played up in the senior competition surpassing the skills and out playing some of the senior boys from other schools.

The team members were; Cristian Ciampa (captain), Anthony Tomelic, Piero Sanchez, Darren Vargas, Joseph Raso (Keeper) Jake Ingle, Steven Portolesi, Luca Marongiu, and Andre Gioiosa.

Mrs C. Celea

Coach

Open Girls Futsal Report

On Monday 25th July, the Open Girls Futsal team made their way, bright and early, to Penrith Sports Stadium for the 2011 State Futsal Schools Championship. The girls started out flat, narrowly losing the first game to William Clarke College after a strong performance in the second half. Confidence was low and we ended up losing the second game as well to Bomaderry High. However, with nothing to lose, the girls put in a stellar performance, late in the day, to just miss out on victory against Elderslie High. Considering this school came top of the group, it shows the determination and grit of the girls to only lose 1-0. Congratulations must be extended to the girls for qualifying for this championship and really making a fist of it late in the day. A very special thank you must also be made to Mrs Adattini, Mrs Bolzan, Mrs Pacchiarotta and Ms Donovan for their unwavering support. The team: Bianca Adattini, Montana Bolzan (Captain), Jacqueline Da Silva, Kobey Martin, Nika Morozoff, Alyssa Pacchiarotta, Anna Santaguida, and Kristy Walker.

Miss M. Boggs

Coach
GOOD SAMARITAN
CATHOLIC COLLEGE
HINCHINBROOK

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PO Box 444, Hoxton Park NSW 2171
Phone: (02) 9825 9955 · Fax: (02) 9825 9966
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FOR YOUR INFORMATION
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

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday 1st Aug - Monday 15th August
Trial HSC examinations

Monday 1st August
Year 11, 2012 Information Evening

Wednesday 3rd August
Year 11, 2012 Subject Market & Information Evening

COORDINATOR’S AWARD

Year 7  Varsha Nand
Year 8  Kristy Bartels
Year 9  Laura Cross
Year 10  Julia Fahmi
Year 11  Kirstyn Fonti
Year 12  Nathaniel Frijo

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Congratulations to Karina Donoso from Year 12 who placed second in the World Dance Solo at the 2011 Sydney Eisteddfod on Sunday 17th July. Well done Karina.

CANTEEN ROSTER

| Mon 1st August | L. Tomelic, N Carbone, M.Macri |
| Tues 2nd August | L. La Rosa, F. Khan, L.Pacchiarotta |
| Wed 3rd August | A. Pipicella, G. Beretta |
| Thurs 4th August | M. Alsafar, T. Severino, G. Bartolo |
| Fri 5th August | D. Razlog, J. Jamhour, D. Doherty, P. Trigai |
| Mon 8th August | A.Ammelino, R. Raso, |
| Tues 9th August | L. Versi, E. Aukuso, D. Mori |
| Wed 10th August | R. Crinitti, D. Hadjisocratous, N. Williamson |
| Thurs 11th August | A O’Neill, C. Kairuz, M. Castiglione |
| Fri 12th August | T. Kristen, P. Puttinger, H. Mansour |

Schools Program

This Year Good Samaritan Catholic College is taking part in the Woolworths Earn & Learn and the Coles Sports for Schools programs.

Woolworths and Coles will give you one voucher for their respective programs for every $10 you spend in store excluding the purchase of cigarettes, alcohol and gift cards). For those that choose to shop at Woolworths, points will automatically appear on your shopping dockets. All you need to do is save those dockets and bring them to school. For Coles, specific vouchers are given for your purchases and these vouchers are then brought into school.

At the end of the program, we can redeem our collection of points against a choice of more than 7,000 educational and sporting resources. The list is extensive and includes library books, classroom equipment, art & craft materials and much, much more...

We do not ask that people change their shopping habits for this program. We do, however, encourage those families that shop at either Woolworths or Coles to collect the vouchers (or receipts) and bring them into the College. Thank you for your continued support of Good Samaritan Catholic College.