Dear Parents,

The highlight of last week was the Blessing and Opening of our new chapel and hall. Throughout this celebration I was constantly aware of the extra opportunities that this facility will offer Good Samaritan students. Of particular significance, it provides a means whereby the many talents of students can be showcased and where the strong sense of community that already exists in the school can be enhanced. The following reflection uses the analogy of a jigsaw to recognize that great things can be achieved when we use our unique gifts and talents to work together as a community in faith.

‘Jigsaw’

We are each like a giant jigsaw-
each piece unique and irreplaceable
for if even one piece is lost
the picture is never complete.

Some pieces are plain blue or green,
and some are straight along the edges
while others are curved
and coloured in riotous swirls.

Some live in the busy centre while others stand
on the very edge of the action
while a few outcasts almost live on the corners
and have two straight edges.

But it is when all the pieces fall into place
without judgement or importance of position
or whether it is intrinsically better
to be plain or coloured or straight or curved
that the true picture is shown in all its glory.

Congratulations to everyone for the team effort that ensured that our Blessing and Opening was extremely successful. Thank you to Mr Kingsman, Ms Najdek, Mrs Popovic, Mr Munguia, Ms Welsh and our talented musicians and choir, for the many hours of preparation for this very memorable liturgy. We also thank Mr Scollard, Mr Brooks and Mrs Grech for their organizational efforts and Mr Reyes for his sound and lighting expertise. Our thanks to our Hospitality students who, under the guidance of Mrs McInerney, Ms Duggan and Mrs Vom Bruch, provided a delicious morning tea to our official guests and visitors. I particularly congratulate all students for their outstanding attentiveness and cooperation throughout our ceremony. Students were an absolute credit to the school. The day was very significant in the history of our school as it officially marks the end of a building project that has taken twelve years.

The students were once again the best advertisement for our school when our facilities were used for the national launch of research from the Cancer Council and Heart Foundation last week. I’m sure you will agree that our students looked extremely fit and healthy on all the news networks and their comments, and the way they conducted themselves, reflected the pride that they have in their school. The “Breakfast Club” is definitely something that is unique to Good Samaritan and this was a great way for us to showcase our school in the media. We thank Ms Najdek, Mrs Golubic, Ms Welsh and all the volunteer students that have made this initiative such a spectacular success. We will be provided with footage of this story from all the networks and we will post it on our website when it becomes available.

We congratulate Mrs Dadd and Mr Wheeler on the recent births of Maisie Elizabeth Dadd and Lillian Louisa Wheeler.

God bless

Ms J Donovan
PRINCIPAL
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.

Attendance and Appointments
It is the college’s expectation that students attend all classes, on all days, except when they are absent from school due to sickness or for other approved reasons. Any appointments should ordinarily be made outside school hours. This requirement is equally applicable on Tuesday afternoons, as students are required to fulfil the mandatory requirements in relation to participation in physical activity and sport.

Metrolink Bus Services
Students have now been issued with their passes for Metrolink buses. The company has asked us to inform parents and students that priority for the afternoon bus service 9825 will be given to those students who have the number 25 stamped on their pass. These students have been identified by the company as needing to catch this bus as there is no other option for them. Should bus 9825 reach capacity then students without the special stamp on their pass will be directed to board another service such as 9803.

Mr P Brooks
Assistant Principal (Administration)

STUDY SKILLS TIP FOR FEBRUARY: YOUR BRAIN AND MEMORY
Just a reminder that our school is a subscriber to the study skills website www.studyskillshandbook.com.au
This is a website that helps students develop essential skills for academic success. There are units on improving time management skills, how to study, research skills, and the new unit on the brain and memory (click on the For Students tab to access this).
This latest unit, ‘Your Brain and Memory’, gives student an understanding of what is going on behind the scenes as they learn and remember at school. It also looks at some advanced memory techniques that may be useful for many students as well as ways you can improve your memory.

When students do not have much homework, a great idea is to choose a unit of work from the site to focus on that night during their time at home that is allocated to schoolwork.

Keep your eye out each month in the newsletter for a new tip on what students can do to maximize their academic results at school.

Our school’s subscription details to www.studyskillshandbook.com.au are:
User name: forgscconly
Password: 48results

YEAR COORDINATORS WEEKLY AWARD
Congratulations to the following students
Yr 7  Robert Kingston
Yr 8  Dominic Ayoub
Yr 9  Juan Zarate-Cardona
Yr 10 Michelle Tran
Yr 11 Natalie Patto
Yr 12 Jessica Colombo

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Last year, we continued to have students and staff support the St Vincent de Paul Night Patrol in Liverpool and we are preparing to commence our support of this fantastic organisation again in the coming weeks. Once again we have a high level of interest and I am hoping to be able to accommodate everyone. Good Samaritan has a long history of assisting the local St Vincent de Paul groups and I am asking if everyone could support the work of St Vincent de Paul, both materially and spiritually, particularly as we are heading into both lent and winter.

Next Wednesday is the feast day of the Chair of St Peter. When we read the title of the feast like this, it sounds like a strange one, some might even think that we are worshiping an actual chair. This feast is about the celebration of the life of St Peter and, in particular, his missionary work in Rome within the First Century. It is also an acknowledgement of the fact that the same missionary work which was started by Peter, continues today, through the Pope, who is the successor of Peter as the apostle to Rome. Within our Catholic faith all bishops are the inheritors of the missionary work started by the apostles and so are the new apostles in our midst. When we read the Acts of the Apostles within the New Testament, we discover two important things about the apostles. The first is that while they were not perfect, making many mistakes, they were still the leaders of the Christian Community. The second point is that the apostles were not able to do it all alone, relying upon many different men and women to proclaim the gospel. Our young men and women who go out and assist with night patrol, are working with the modern apostles to care for those brothers and sisters of Christ who are in need of a helping hand. Never forget that we are the inheritors of the work of the early Christians and it is up to us to pass this heritage onto the next generation.

Mr P Kingsman, RE Coordinator
Higher School Certificate Results Overview

The HSC results in 2010 were the best that the College has had with a significant improvement on the number of Band 6 results by students. Overall, in the courses presented, 24 students achieved a total of 40 Band 6 results – a 90% improvement compared to 2009.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subjects achieving Band 6 Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studies of Religion I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Congratulations to the following students who achieved Band 6 results: George El-Boustani (Business Studies, Economics, Mathematics, Software Design and Development, Studies of Religion and Extension 1 Mathematics), Andrea Brocklehurst (Physics, Studies of Religion, Extension 1 Mathematics), Leah Brown (Ancient History, Studies of Religion I) Stephanie Herreen (General Mathematics, PDHPE), Carmina Dimarcut (PDHPE) Magella Barbuto (Business Services, Advanced English), Anthony El-Zakhem (Studies of Religion I) Joseph Foti (PDHPE, Business Studies) Steven Catanea (General Mathematics, PDHPE) Mary Nega (SOR I, Legal Studies) Sarah Nega (SOR I) Flora Mansour (PDHPE) Louise Doculara (SOR), Rebecca Hunt (General Mathematics, SOR I), Anthony Harrison (General Mathematics), Kristian Kuan (SOR I), Monique Robles (Business Studies, SOR I) Stacey Sirol (General Mathematics), Chris Vella (SOR I).

There was an increase in the number of Band 5 results by students and the results across a range of subjects continued to show improvement and significantly there is value added to student and group performance when compared to the School Certificate results of 2008. Teachers and students are commended on the significant increase in the percentage of Band 4, 5, 6 across a range of subjects - in 71% of courses, the percentage of Mathematics Extension 1 100% 97.1%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>% of students achieving Bands 4, 5, 6 School</th>
<th>% of students achieving Bands 4, 5, 6 State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ancient History</td>
<td>69.4%</td>
<td>64.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Services Exam</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>54.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community &amp; Family Studies</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
<td>64.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drama</td>
<td>92.9%</td>
<td>78.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Standard</td>
<td>62.3%</td>
<td>34.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Advanced</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>92.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English ESL</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>64.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Extension</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>99.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Mathematics</td>
<td>72.6%</td>
<td>56.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>78.6%</td>
<td>72.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History Extension</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>96.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality Exam</td>
<td>86.7%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Processes</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>64.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Studies</td>
<td>84.2%</td>
<td>63.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>75.8%</td>
<td>75.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics Extension 1</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>97.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics Extension 2</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>99.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modern History</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>77.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PDHPE</td>
<td>87.9%</td>
<td>70.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studies of Religion 1 Unit</td>
<td>92.3%</td>
<td>78.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studies of Religion 2 Unit</td>
<td>88.2%</td>
<td>76.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual Arts</td>
<td>94.7%</td>
<td>87.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To the Parents

In this issue, I would like to address my thoughts to the parents of our Year 7 students. The article below has been taken, in part, from the Australian Parenting Website.

One of the biggest transitions in a child’s life is moving from primary to secondary school. It can be a time full of fun, excitement and new experiences, but can also be challenging or worrying for some children.

New Ways

Already you would have heard from your children stories about connecting with past friends and making new ones. There may have been talk of being lost in such a big school and of some kind person helping them out. Perhaps you have heard about the lockers and conquering the combination locks, or you may have been told how it takes so long to access their lockers.

The beginning of secondary school is a complex and challenging experience. There are a number of teachers to get to know, timetables to follow and room changes to negotiate regularly throughout the day. Students have to know what books to bring to lessons and which books to take home to complete homework for the next day. They will need to adapt to new assessment and teaching styles, become more responsible for their own learning and manage an increased workload. For all students, high school is a movement from the known to the unknown and a whole new way of doing things.

Encourage your child

There are many ways to help your child. Below are some ideas that may help you start conversations about how they are managing their new school life.

Please check their school diary every day – they should never leave it at school. Check that they are writing their homework in it and that all work for the next day has been completed. This is also a key way for teachers to communicate with you. Praise their efforts.

Give your child lots of encouragement to join sporting teams, debating, public speaking, and music and drama activities available at the College. The more involved a student is in the life of the College the greater their feeling of belonging as well as their commitment to academic effort.

Remember, not all children settle in to Secondary school at the same pace. Some will need more time than others. This is fine. However, if after six weeks your son/daughter doesn’t talk much about school or their friends or doesn’t want to come to school, please contact the College. It is something we would like to talk to you about.

This week Sr Marj has begun the process of interviewing each Year 7 student in groups of three. It will give your sons and daughters a chance to meet Sr Marj and talk about how they have started their time at Good Samaritan College. Ask them how the interview went.

Mr M Bell
Student Welfare Coordinator

Equity, excellence and choice

A funding model for Australian schools should be based on some clear guiding principles.

Firstly, every child, regardless of the school he or she attends, is entitled to the best education that our nation can provide. Simplistic arguments about the relative merits of government and non-government schools lose sight of the fact that the model must reflect what is best for all students.

Secondly, the funding model must balance excellence and equity. Additional support for students with special needs or a disability, and for Indigenous and refugee students, is paramount. All schools and systems must also be able to promote excellence, particularly in lower socio-economic communities.

Thirdly, the funding model must acknowledge the combined contributions of both State and Federal governments. It must also recognise that parents have a right to choose the educational environment that best suits the needs of their child. The emerging model should not discourage parents wishing to make a financial contribution to the school of their choice.

For the Catholic sector, the provision of a quality education is dependent on the reliability of the funding source. At the very least, Catholic schools need to have maintained the same level of funding in real terms it currently receives. Data from a variety of sources show that, on average, Catholic schools actually receive the lowest level of funding per student when compared to government and other non-government schools. And by operating as a ‘community of schools’, the Catholic system is able to direct its resources to where the needs are greatest.

Australia has a world class education system. It is essential that both State and Federal governments recognise that in order for this to be maintained, it must have a funding model that has equity, excellence and choice as its guiding principles.

Dr Dan White
Executive Director of Catholic Schools
World Youth Day MADRID 2011 is fast approaching! 10 Students from Good Samaritan are representing the college and making the trip of a lifetime to learn about their faith journey. Good Samaritan students will be travelling in August to Rome, Florence, Siena, Assisi and Madrid for 17 days.

Name: Melissa Young  
Year: 10  
What does World Youth Day mean to you?  
World Youth Day to me means an experience I get to have that will never be the same. Letting my religion grow and learning more about being Catholic and our beliefs. As well as being able to experience a different culture.

Why are you going on this life changing experience to Madrid?  
I’m going to Madrid to learn about the Spanish culture and to experience their way of life and how they live and believe in God.

What do you hope to achieve?  
I hope to achieve a strengthened faith whilst broadening my horizon by experiencing an entirely new culture.

What are you excited about?  
I’m excited about experiencing the Spanish culture and also meeting a new range of people from all around the world that share in our religion.

What’s going to be happening on your behalf at GSCC?  
I’m going to make people aware of the journey I’m going to undertake and do fundraising through the school and get the students and staff aware that we are going to WYD and to share the experience that we will take part in.

Name: Laura Dixon  
Year: 10  
What does World Youth Day mean to you?  
Expressing my faith and sharing it with different cultures and friends from GSCC.

Why are you going on this life changing experience to Madrid?  
To experience the history of Rome and Spain with GSCC and create memories that will last my lifetime.

What do you hope to achieve?  
I hope to achieve a deeper spiritual understanding of the Catholic faith.

What are you excited about?  
I am excited about travelling overseas, visiting Italy and Spain, trying new foods and learning a new language.

Ms E Welsh  
World Youth Day Coordinator

The College is now able to distribute our College Newsletter and College Fees Statements by email. If you would prefer to receive an electronic copy of the fortnightly College Newsletter and a monthly Fee Statement, please send an email to the College email address shown below.

Sending an email to us at the address below greatly assists in preventing possible transcription errors in misreading handwritten email addresses.

To: info@gscchinchinbrook.catholic.edu.au  
Subject: Email correspondence

Please ensure you list ALL students names and year/pastoral class in your email back to us.
Have you ever wished that your writing could be published? Well...
Entry is NOW OPEN in the Schools Writing Competition for 2011! Students all over Australia are invited to enter their short stories OR poems, and battle it out for the great cash prizes on offer.
This round: there is no theme!! Entrants are encouraged to let their imaginations run wild and get their creative juices flowing to write on ANY TOPIC and in ANY STYLE.
Students from ALL GRADES are welcome to enter - Kindergarten to Grade 12.
Entry is FREE and all entries must be in by March 30th, 2011.
Poems and short stories entered into the competition will be considered for inclusion into our 2011 Write4fun anthology!
“We are very excited to be sponsoring this competition,” stated Michelle Bell, Operations Manager for Write4Fun. “Writing is such an expressive form of communication and we want to do everything possible to encourage the students to be creative with it.”
Contact Ms Fegatilli in C18 during morning PC for more information and entry forms. Best of luck with your entries.

World Maths Day

World Maths Day is an international event where students compete against each other from Australia and all over the world in 60 second mental arithmetic games. The aim of this event is for students of all ages to answer as many questions as possible during a 48 hour period. During 2010 a world record of 479,732,613 questions were answered correctly during this time frame.
This year Good Samaritan Catholic College is ready once again to participate in this prestigious event which officially begins on Monday 28th February at 10pm and concludes at 10pm on Wednesday 2nd March. However, practice mode is now open and students can login and start preparing for the official event. In the past, our college has been extremely successful in this competition. Last year Shedona Pulumbarit answered 12 897 questions in this time frame and was placed in the top ten of Australia for her age group. If any parents would like further information on this event or would like to participate they should contact Mr Georgiou or Mrs Cook at the college.

Mr G Georgiou
Assistant Mathematics Coordinator

We congratulate the following students for their very significant contribution to the success of the Blessing and Opening of the Chapel and Hall.

Choir and Band
Yannick L’Eveille, An Le, Sean Bermingham, Julia Fahmi, Rochelle Abbate, Josephine Losurdo, Rebecca Gore, Emely Benevides, Jessica Colombo, Gabrielle Estrada, Ian Doculara, Jonathon Potter, Andrew Wright, Pierre Estephan, Andrew Keir, William Blandino, Jordan Ruzic, Nicholas Golubic, Johann Kamalaneson, Fernando Benevides, Jeffrey Lualhati, Shauntae Farrugia, Michaela Hodge, Joseph Raso, Angelo Ragaso

Hospitality
Michelle Divola, Tammy Boulatsakos, Chloe Callus, Gabriel Macias, Caterena Spinelli, Jacqueline Da Silva, Daniel Cassone, Amanda Bodagh
Opening Mass & Blessing of Chapel and Hall
ANTEEN ROSTER WEEK ENDING 11th FEBRUARY 2011

Monday 21st February................................. A Testa, M Macri, M Castiglione
Tuesday 22nd February................................. K Matti, F Khan
Wednesday 23rd February............................ A Pipicella, G Beretta
Thursday 24th February............................... A O’Neill, L Valenzano, C Kairuz, A Spadaro
Friday 25th February................................. SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Monday 28th February................................. A Ammellino, R Raso
Tuesday 1st March.................................... L Versi, N Carbone, T Cox
Wednesday 2nd March............................... J Vartuli, N Jargees, L Duncombe
Thursday 3rd March................................. R Origlia, G Natoli, G Gilvear
Friday 4th March................................. D. Razlog, J. Jamhour, D Doherty, P Tragai

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

NOTES SENT HOME THIS FORTNIGHT
⇒ GSCC Annual Swim Carnival permission note due back 23/2
⇒ Year 12 College Jersey Order Form due back next few weeks
⇒ General Information letter Year 8 & Year 9

Italian Proverb of the Week
Il tempo è un gran medico
Time is a great healer

Last week on Wednesday 9th February our Good Samaritan community experienced the media spotlight as the Heart Foundation and Cancer Council launched their findings of The Secondary Student’s Diet and Activity Survey in our new College Hall. Our Healthy Breakfast Club showcased our very successful program by serving breakfast and giving feedback on its important benefits. A number of our staff and students were interviewed by members of the media including Channel 7, 9, 10, ABC and our local newspaper the Liverpool Leader. A number of these interviews are able to be viewed online on the respective media websites. Congratulations and thank you to all who continue to make our Healthy Breakfast program a success!

Miss M Najdek

Bianca Adattini
Congratulations to Bianca on being selected for the NSW Futsal in the National Youth Competition held in Canberra over the Christmas holidays.

Bianca is also to be congratulated for being selected in the train on squad for the Australian Futsal team, from which a team will be chosen to tour China later this year. We wish Bianca every success in making the national team.

Cristian Ciampa
Congratulations to Cristian on being selected to represent the NSW Futsal team. This team went on to make the semi-finals in the National competition.

Georgina Ciampa
Congratulations on her ongoing success in Indoor Netball. Georgina has been selected to represent NSW for the past 3 years.