Dear Parents,

The underlying theme of Parent Information Evenings and Assemblies, over the last few weeks, has been the importance of students displaying a strong work ethic in their studies. I am a firm believer that if students are prepared to make an absolute commitment to their studies, they will achieve results beyond their wildest expectations. The following simple, some might say absurd story, has a message for all of us - giving up is not an option, whereas perseverance and commitment can bring unexpected and rewarding results.

Two frogs accidentally fell into a bucket of cream. They swam around and around in the cream, and every effort they made to climb up the side of the bucket was in vain. They were trapped, with no evident means of escape. One of the frogs gave up, thinking there was no point in hoping where there was no clear hope, and he just went to the bottom and drowned. The other frog was no quitter. He was convinced that there was a way out, and was determined to find it. He gave it his best shot, as he splashed and thrashed around in the cream. Imagine his surprise and relief, after a while, when he found himself sitting on top of a big lump of butter! He rested there, regained his strength, and leaped out of the bucket!

This story reminds us: 'Quitters never win and winners never quit!'

This message is particularly relevant as students should now have settled into their study routine. Teachers are committed to providing a classroom learning environment where students can achieve to their potential, and one of the focus areas of our pastoral program is study skills. We would appreciate it if parents could check your son’s/ daughter’s diary to ensure that all homework and assignments are completed, and that he/she does the necessary preparation before exams. You would be aware that teachers are available to help students, and a good study environment is provided, through our Homework Club, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 3-4pm. Homework is absolutely crucial if students are to achieve to the highest academic standards.

At our recent College Assembly, all student leaders were presented with their badges and last Monday they participated in their Leadership Training Day. Students discussed the qualities of an effective leader, using the person of Jesus as the ideal model of leadership in a Catholic school, and they used this model to develop goals, strategies and a 'plan of action' for themselves as they take up their role as leaders at Good Samaritan College. We congratulate our Student Leaders for 2011:

**School Captains** - Erika Brocklehurst, Johann Kamalanese

**Spirituality Leaders** - Natalie Perre, Jacinta Vella, Renee Boreta

**Social Justice Leaders** - Tanika Caruana, Antonietta Raco, Annelise Fegatilli

**Environment Leaders** - Gabrielle Estrada, Patrick Goorkiz, Georgina Kaka

**School Spirit/Welfare Leaders** - Alyssa Cook, Bruno Romeo, Maddison McPherson

**Year 12 Matters** - Rebecca Arcuri, Matthew McElhone, Charbel Abou Fram

**Student Representative Council**
Yr 8 - Lana Mallia, Brendan Jones
Yr 9 - Gemma Brocklehurst, Jason Marras
Yr 10 - Caterina Bologna, Paul Galea

Congratulations to everyone involved in last week's Swimming Carnival. Our thanks to Mr Zahra and all the staff for their organizational efforts and assistance on the day. Well done to our students who, under the leadership of our seniors, displayed tremendous school spirit on the day. I congratulate Age Champions, Runners Up and those students who broke school records. Special congratulations to the victorious Chisholm House.

I draw your attention to the advertisement for our Open Day for Year 7, 2012, in this newsletter. The completion of the College Hall has enabled us to do one
presentation to prospective parents and students at 11am, followed by guided tours of the school. All Year 6 students and parents are most welcome.

Good luck to our public speakers who compete in the first round of the Catholic Schools Public Speaking Competition tonight.

Ms J Donovan
Principal

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL (PASTORAL)

Use of the Student Diary
At Good Samaritan we have a number of very good procedures in place which enable effective communication between home and school. One of these is the College Diary. By regularly looking at your son’s or daughter’s diary you will be aware of what they should be doing for homework, if they have assessment tasks due to be handed in and if any of their teachers have concerns about their class work or positive comments to make about their learning. The College Diary is also an ideal place to communicate with teachers if there have been problems with homework or if you have other brief comments to make. It is because of this that we ask a parent or guardian to sign the diary each week and Pastoral Care Teachers check that this is done. When signing the diary please take the time to look at what your son or daughter is up to in class and take the time to have a conversation with them about it.

College Uniform
We are very fortunate at Good Samaritan to have a school uniform which is distinctive and enhances the overall standing of the College in the local community when it is worn correctly. As a community we ask that parents ensure that their sons and daughters wear the uniform correctly from home to school and arrive home still wearing their uniform correctly.

A few areas which some students need to be reminded of include:
- Boys shirts should be tucked in at all times
- Senior boys should wear their ties to and from school with their top buttons done up
- Both boys and girls should wear black lace up school shoes which are polished regularly
- Girls skirts are to be worn at the knee
- Girls are to wear short white socks that come up to the ankle and are folded over at the top (they are not to wear anklets)

Thank you for your support in these matters

Mr P Sollard
Assistant Principal (Pastoral)

STUDY SKILLS TIP FOR MARCH: TERM PLANNERS

Just a reminder that our school is a subscriber to the study skills website www.studyskillshandbook.com.au

This is a website with units of work on different study skills topics, as well as facilities to ask study skills questions, download podcasts about how students can improve their results as well as other resources and planning templates.

A great idea at the start of every term is to print off the term planner. These can be found by clicking on the ‘For Students’ tab, then on the ‘Things to Print’ button. You will find term planners as well as weekly planners at the bottom of this page in both WORD and PDF format. Simply fill in the dates for the term, and place the term planner somewhere visible at home – for example above your desk on a noticeboard.

As you are told about a test or assignment, write these onto the appropriate date on the term planner. Highlight tests in one colour and assignments in another colour so they stand out clearly. Cross off each day as you go, so you have a clear picture of how the work is spread out over the term and how long until things are due.

Writing these due dates in your diary as well is essential of course, but it does not give you the overall picture like a term planner does. This is a good thing to do at the start of every term right from the start of secondary school through to the end.

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

STUDENT WELFARE COORDINATOR

For the Parents

Some Implications on the Overuse of Social Network Sites

Recently I read an article published on the findings of Professor Greenfield, Professor of Pharmacology at Lincoln College Oxford in the UK. She spoke of the damage that can be caused to our young people with the overuse of social networks.

Professor Greenfield said “social networking is relevant and important because relationships are relevant and important and all human beings engage in them.” However, she noted, that it also raised the question about what makes a friend and how spending hours in front of the computer can affect young people’s ability to make deep and meaningful relationships, now and in the future.

She told Parliament that children’s experiences on social networking sites “are devoid of depth and long-term significance. As a consequence, the mid-21st century mind might almost be characterized by short attention spans, sensationalism, inability to empathize and a shaky sense of identity”.

She commented that “It might be helpful to investigate whether the near total submersion of our culture in screen technologies over the last decade might in some way be linked to the threefold increase over this period in prescriptions for methylphenidate, the drug prescribed for attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder.”

YEAR COORDINATORS WEEKLY AWARD

Congratulations to the following students

| Yr 7 | Marija Stojkovska |
| Yr 8 | Gian Thompson |
| Yr 9 | Rachael Dagher |
| Yr 10 | John-Mark Merhi |
| Yr 11 | Luke Camilleri |
| Yr 12 | Damien Carson |
Through her research Professor Greenfield has found that young people today operate mainly in the here and now. They go for the instant gratification rather than contemplating any consequences.

Many computer games concentrate on giving the player a ‘buzz or thrill’. So for example rescuing the princess is what the game is all about because the player feels an instant ‘high’. However no regard is given to the princess or how she might feel. The game can be played again and again, and the player is always the ‘hero’ with a feel good outcome.

According to Professor Greenfield this type of repeated activity and a disregard for consequence, can be compared with the thrill of compulsive gambling or compulsive eating.

“The sheer compulsion of reliable and almost immediate reward is being linked to similar chemical systems in the brain that may also play a part in drug addiction. So we should not underestimate the ‘pleasure’ of interacting with a screen when we puzzle over why it seems so appealing to young people” she said.

Already young people are losing the art of ‘reading’ face to face interactions which according to Professor Greenfield “require sensitivity to voice tone, body language and perhaps even to pheromones, those sneaky molecules that we release and which others smell subconsciously”.

A huge shift in society and culture is needed if we are to reverse this growing trend and bring teenagers back to a real world where they are equipped to handle what life throws at them.

Professor Greenfield’s article is quite challenging. As she notes social networking and games are here to stay. However, children’s time on such sites need to be regulated. They need to have a balance of physical activities, study and homework as well as online activity.

Mr M Bell, Student Welfare Coordinator

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**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR**

**Night Patrol**

Last Thursday, our senior students commenced their outings with Liverpool St Vincent de Paul Night Patrol. As our students are preparing to once again go out on a regular basis, I ask that you keep them in your prayers, but more importantly, that you continue to pray for those people in our community who are most vulnerable and in need of our assistance. Often they are closer to us than we know. I want to thank Johann Kamalaneson and Erika Brocklehurst for coming out and assisting last Thursday.

**Lent**

Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent, a time of spiritual preparation for Easter. We use Lent to bring ourselves closer to the one true God; learning how to love Him better by loving people better. As always, we will be supporting CARITAS, the Australian Catholic charity which assists with direction and intervention action in communities in Australia and overseas. I would like to remind people that Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence, which means that we eat less and do not eat meat. This means that the canteen will not be selling any food containing any meat, except fish, and an alternate menu will be in place on this day.

Mr P Kingsman, RE Coordinator
Students vs Staff Netball Charity Fundraiser
YEAR 12 MUSIC COMPOSITION

My composition is in a contemporary style. I’ve drawn inspiration from composers such as Yann Tiersen, Michael Nyman and Dario Marianelli and have emulated distinct features of their ‘style’ of composition, from the manner in which instruments ‘converse’ to the nature of the theme’s development. I found this piece challenging to produce as it was a duet for the piano and violin and I usually only write solo piano compositions. Drawing greatly from ‘Music For Film’, which was last term’s topic, I decided to create a ‘theme and variations’. I confronted difficulty in keeping each variation original, as well as constructing counter melodies and accompaniments in the violin (the former being something I never usually work with when composing for the piano!). Studying the way in which my favourite scores have been composed, as well as the techniques taught in class, I managed to overcome these obstacles by understanding exactly how melodies can effectively work with (and around) each other. I’ve created this on ‘Sibelius 6’ for PC/ Mac and I suggest that any students who wish to compose (especially for the HSC) consider investing in a copy of the program. I find it extremely useful as it translates the expressive techniques heard in live performance very effectively, also providing a realistic instrumental sound. However, this is not to say that programs such as Finale and Guitar Pro aren’t appropriate.

Pierre Goorkiz
Year 12 Music Student

An excerpt from my composition

CSDA PUBLIC SPEAKING

On Friday 4th March, Good Samaritan Catholic college will be participating in the CSDA Public Speaking Competition. The college has participated in this competition for many years and will continue that tradition again in 2011. 2010 was a successful year in which seven speakers made it through to the zone final, so hopefully the college will have similar success this year. It is a good sign of the strength of public speaking that selection trials needed to occur for a number of age groups, including our new Year 7 cohort. We wish all representatives the best of luck as they travel to Mary MacKillop College, Wakeley for the first round of this prestigious competition.

2011 CSDA Public Speaking Representatives

ICT COORDINATOR

CYBERSAFETY OUTREACH PROGRAM

A reminder to parents about the upcoming Cybersafety Outreach Presentation at the college. The Cybersafety Outreach-Internet Safety Awareness presentation will be held on Tuesday, 22nd March from 7.00pm to 8.30pm in the college hall. To register your attendance please contact Mr Reyes or the College Administration Office. This event has been opened to other Catholic Schools in the area and it is advisable that parents arrive at the college early for parking.

SENIOR EMAIL SERVICE

To help senior students transfer work between their home and school, we have increased the email quota on all senior accounts. This will allow for more work to be stored electronically online on our intranet server.

Mr J Reyes
ICT Coordinator
**A MESSAGE FROM DR DAN WHITE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

Dear Parents and Carers

The information below has been jointly prepared by the Council of Catholic School Parents and the NSW Catholic Education Commission.

It outlines three aspects of the NSW Greens education policy that are of great concern to leaders within the Catholic education community. My purpose in distributing this document to you is so that you are fully aware of what these policies will mean for the viability of Catholic schools, should they be implemented.

You may also be aware that a review of how Australian schools are funded (the Gonski Review) is currently under way. It is the strong hope of all involved in Catholic education that any changes to the current funding formula that might emerge out of this review be based on the principles of equity and fairness. Regardless of which school a student attends, he or she is entitled to receive the very best education our nation is able to provide.

Dr Dan White  
Executive Director of Catholic Schools

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**IMPACT OF GREENS EDUCATION POLICY ON NSW CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

Your attention is drawn to three aspects of the NSW Greens education policy for the 2011 NSW State Election on 26 March. If implemented, the policy would have an immediate negative impact on all NSW Catholic schools, their staff and families. The policy is available at [http://nsw.greens.org.au/policies/education](http://nsw.greens.org.au/policies/education). The Greens policy seeks to:

1. **SEVERELY REDUCE GOVERNMENT GRANTS TO CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**  
   Para 37. The Greens NSW believe that state funding of private schools should be adjusted so that the total allocation of commonwealth and state funding to all private schools is frozen at its year 2003 level, adjusted for inflation, and that further increases in the education budget should be directed to public schools and TAFE colleges. Reducing state per capita grants in such a way as to ensure that all non-government schools are funded at their 2003 level from both Commonwealth and State grants, adjusted for inflation, means that grants for Catholic systemic schools would be **reduced instantly and severely**. If applied to NSW Government state grants for Catholic systemic schools, as proposed in the Greens policy, this means:

   - Primary Schools grants would be reduced by 85.9%, or $185.8 million in total
   - Secondary Schools grants would be reduced by 65.3%, or $133 million in total
   - Primary systemic school grants would have to be reduced from $1809 per student to $256 per student and the secondary grants from $2389 per student to $838 per student.

2. **RESTRICT ACCESS TO THE SCHOOL STUDENT TRANSPORT SCHEME**  
   Para 20. The Greens NSW will work towards the reform of the Transport Conveyance Subsidy Scheme to ensure that subsidies are only applied to travel to the nearest public school and that recipients of the Subsidy in rural and remote locations in NSW who are genuinely in need of financial assistance receive an equitable share of these funds.  
   Restricting the School Student transport scheme to subsidise transport only to a child’s nearest government school will discriminate against parents who choose to send their children to non-government schools.

3. **ABOLISH FREEDOM OF RELIGION PROTECTIONS**  
   Para 34. [The Greens] are also committed to removing all exemptions for private schools from the Antidiscrimination Act. This policy would undermine International Human Rights conventions which provide for the right of religious communities to operate their schools and services in accord with their conscientiously held beliefs and teachings. Parliaments, including the NSW Parliament, are obliged by these conventions not to restrict religious freedom in any of their laws.

**THE CUMULATIVE IMPACT OF THESE POLICIES IS TO UNDERMINE PARENTAL CHOICE IN SCHOOLING AND THE FUNDAMENTAL VIABILITY OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS.**
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  13 114
24 hours, 7 days a week telephone service

Sisters of Charity Outreach

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Role of Volunteers in our Services based in the City and South West Sydney
- Visiting the socially isolated
- Helping in the courts by being a friendly face and listening ear
- Assisting in parent education programs
- Helping at the domestic violence crisis accommodation for mothers and children
- Transporting our country friends from airports/stations to their medical appointments
- Assisting in our shop/raffle which helps towards fundraising.

Training program is essential and consists 6 sessions:
Evening program begins Wednesday March 23 (Darlinghurst)
Day program begins Monday May 23rd (Monday mornings Liverpool)
Wednesday May 25th (Wednesday mornings Darlinghurst)
Applications or enquiries Ph 98225980 or 83826430
Visit website www.sistersofcharityoutreach.com.au

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday 9th March
ASH WEDNESDAY

Thursday 10th March
Southern Sydney Swimming Carnival Caringbah

Saturday 19th March
College Open Day 11am - 1pm

CANTEEN ROSTER

| Mon 7th March | D. Ingle, L. Losurdo |
| Tues 8th March | L. Pacchiarotta, L. La Rosa |
| Wed 9th March | C. Magsino, D. Gavalas, E. Aukuso |
| Thurs 10th March | S. Lichaa, G. Bartolo, K. Cutler |
| Fri 11th March | H. Molina, M. Mudalal, S. Gioiosa, G. Bologna |
| Mon 14th March | E. Hobby, J. Colley |
| Tues 15th March | F. Khan, T. Cox |
| Wed 16th March | M. Romeo, L. Dwarte, N. Bodagh |
| Thurs 17th March | M. Alsafar, T. Severino, A. Morozoff |
| Fri 18th March | D. Segatto, R. Romeo, D. Caruana, H. Mansour |

OPEN DAY
Saturday 19 March
11.00am - 1.00pm

Presentation in the College Hall • 11.00am
The Good Samaritan community extends an invitation to prospective parents and students wishing to enrol for 2012.
All are welcome to attend.

Good Samaritan Catholic College

CONGRATULATIONS TO MONTANA BOLZAN
who was selected in the NSW Futsal team who competed in Canberra in January. Montana’s team were successful in winning the championship. Congratulations also for scoring one of the winning goals!!