Dear Parents

Adam Arcuri, Chimene Azzi and Gemma Brocklehurst led Year 10 in the following prayer at their Assembly last week. It was written by Mother Teresa of Calcutta who was inspirational in the manner in which she looked after the poor. It reminds all of us that true faith is ‘faith in action’:

Our way as Christians must be a radical openness to God and the poor. At a time of crisis the response must be to step out in faith to ease the burden of the broken, the outcast.

Ours is the challenge to give dignity to those who feel there is no reason to live.

Ours is the gift of love when others feel they are unlovable.

Ours is the risk of judgement and alienation as we live alongside the ones most see are delinquents and no-hoper.

Ours is the possibility of failure in a world that puts so much stress on success.

Ours is the courage to take on a task that others shy clear of.

Ours is the gift of the poor, if we only dare embrace them.

Our actions are a clear expression of our faith that believes that God has created us equal, that He loves each one of us and therefore each and every person has a right to respect.

There is no class of people who Jesus ignores or gives up on, and we ask this of us in our life.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Years 9 and 10 this week as they commenced their yearly exams. It is important that they revise thoroughly for these exams and are diligent in following school exam procedures, as this will ensure they receive excellent reports this year and it is good preparation for their preliminary and HSC exams.

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Years 7 and 9 parents would have received NAPLAN results at the end of last term. We are presently in the process of analyzing these results, specifically looking at students’ ‘learning growth’ which is the best indicator of their improved skills in literacy and numeracy. This indicator compares students’ results in previous NAPLAN tests with their 2012 results.

⇒ Our Year 7 students generally demonstrated substantial ‘learning growth’ in both literacy and numeracy and compare favourably with the state, other Catholic schools and schools in the south-west of Sydney. There was particularly strong growth from the girls and in the structured and core classes, in reading, while the boys and the extended class, showed significant growth in numeracy. The improvement in spelling from the structured classes was ‘off the scale’.

⇒ In Year 9, the boys and the structured and core group displayed the strongest ‘learning growth’ in reading while the boys and the extended and core groups showed significant growth in numeracy.

The literacy component of the NAPLAN tests remains the main area of concern when we compare our data averages with the remainder of the state. In particular, it is important that our junior students read more widely as this will have a major impact on developing their literacy and numeracy skills and assist them in developing the higher order skills required at HSC level. Next year we will continue to focus on enhancing students reading and grammar skills.

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We congratulate our Year 12 Student Leaders for 2013:

College Captains: Patrick Ferreri, Sarah Santangelo
Catholic Life and Spirituality: Joelene Dagher, Daniel Kamalaneson
Social Justice: Konrad Ryzak, Sarah Tacca
Environment: Maddison Coluccio, Yannick L’Eveille
School Spirit/ Welfare: Rebecca Gore, Sean Bermingham

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Well done to our junior boys’ cricket team who convincingly defeated Xavier College Llandilo in the Berg Shield last week.

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We also congratulate Rebecca Gore on her successful audition for the CaSPA 2013 Los Angeles Tour. Rebecca is one of 36 students who will be part of the CaSPA ensemble that will be representing the Archdiocese of Sydney in Los Angeles at the beginning of next year.

Ms J Donovan
PRINCIPAL
The article below was published on the “Generation Next” website. It identifies seven practical ways to build a strong loving connection to your children.

Like all relationships this is what the experts say works. All of us are living these relationships. We are not living them perfectly. There is no perfect parent. This article offers you the chance to reflect on the way you develop your relationships with your children. If there is even one idea that you can take from the information below that might help, the article has done its job. Enjoy the read -

If you’re a parent, then you are likely interested in finding ways to interact with your teenagers that create a strong relationship, foster positive behaviour, and respond to behavioural problems.

In this month’s American Psychological Association’s Monitor on Psychology, Amy Novotney asks leaders in child psychology about the best parenting strategies. Her quest was not for someone’s idea of the best way to parent, but for strategies backed by research studies showing their effectiveness in improving behaviour, strengthening the bond between parents and children, and reacting behavioural problems that arise.

The following seven empirically tested parenting strategies were the result.

1. Provide Labelled Praise.
   Studies have shown that the behaviour that gets attention is the behaviour that you’ll get more of. Attention to undesired behaviour — often in the form of reprimands or punishment — will increase undesired behaviour. At the same time, specific, labelled praise of desired behaviours increase that behaviour.
   Parents should not offer praise indiscriminately, says Sheila Eyberg, PhD, a psychology professor who conducts research on parent-child relationships. Instead, parents should give specific feedback on exactly what the child did that the parent liked.

2. Ignore Minor Misbehaviour.
   If misbehaviour is minor and not dangerous, ignore it. Ignore when a toddler throws food on the floor or your teen slams a door, while respond with attention when they ask nicely or express their feelings teaches the child that good behaviour is a reliable way to get attention. (The Kazdin Method for Parenting the Defiant Child).

3. Become a Student of Child Development.
   Understanding developmental milestones can help a parent attend to and praise steps towards that milestone. Knowing a four-year old wants to please friends will make you more likely to praise their positive behaviour with friends. At the same time, understanding that young teens typically have concerns about body image, looks and clothes might make it easier to ignore all that extra time spent in front of the mirror.

   When you child has done something wrong, brief and immediate time-outs have been shown to work best, particularly when paired with parents who are also modelling positive behaviours and praising good behaviour. Keeping calm — often a real challenge at the moment misbehaviour is
Year 8 Youth Forum

On the 10th of September 2012, 8 students from Year 8, Amy, Emma, Tayla, Zahra, Adam, Adon, Angelo and Domenic, attended the Southern Region Youth Forum in Revesby. This year the topic of interest was “Sinning and Forgiving - The Missing Link” and how we could incorporate this concept into our everyday life.

Throughout the afternoon, there were many activities revolving around this topic that gave us a practical and spiritual understanding of how this affects people around the world. We learned about what it meant to be a modern Catholic in our society today and how this impacted our moral decisions and emotional actions.

One of the practical activities we completed included “The Chain Reaction”. In this activity we learnt how hope, compassion, faith, rejoice, mercy, prayer, justice and love are dependent on one another throughout our modern world today and, through injustices such as sin, this “link” can be broken. We learnt that only forgiveness and reconciliation can mend this broken chain and that God can forgive our wrong actions.

This was reflected through a dramatization about the effects of sin and the power of forgiveness. In this performance, a representation of how struggles and situations faced by young people can affect their actions towards others. It was portrayed by feelings of isolation, pain, heartache and, to an extent, being scared to go and receive penance.

Not until support from friends and the sacrament of reconciliation was received was the character able to break free of the chains who bore sin and start afresh with God.

Overall, the afternoon was very informative as it demonstrated through forgiveness of sin we can build an intimate relation with God and be able to “repair the broken chain” caused by sin in our world.

Angelo and Domenic Beretta
Year 8 students

The World Youth Day theme for 2013 is based around the scripture of Matthew 28:19

‘Go and make Disciples of all Nations.’

World Youth Day students registered for next year RIO 2013 Victoria Criniti, Tanisha De Hoedt, Bianca Micevski, Suzanne Thai, Harvey Ching, Georgina Ciampa, Clae Dickson, Brian Kane.

Students have been busy selling raffle tickets as their fundraiser. Please support these students by buying a ticket for $2.

Prizes include:
1st place- Kia RIO CAR
2nd place- 2 x Economy class return airfares to Europe
3rd place- $1000 Visa gift card

It could be you! Tickets are available at the school office, canteen & from World Youth Day students.

November 2nd- The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed

Today we celebrate the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, where we remember all those who have died. This day we renew our hope in the Lord’s mercy both for all who have gone before us in death and also for ourselves as we continue to struggle here on earth.

Mr M Bell
Student Welfare Coordinator

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Our Father...

Lord Jesus, source of mercy, by the power of your Resurrection, comfort our sorrowing hearts and help us to be faithful to you here on earth, that we will be united to you and all our loved ones in the glory of heaven where you reign eternally with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

Ms E Welsh
WYD Coordinator
GOOD SAMARITAN
CATHOLIC COLLEGE
HINCHINBROOK

Catholic Education Foundation

Earlier this year, the Catholic Education Foundation was launched to honour our commitment that no Catholic child should be denied a Catholic education due to financial hardship. Bursaries will be funded to assist families in all Sydney systemic Catholic schools. To be successful, the Foundation relies on sponsorships and donations and is therefore very grateful to the families within our school community who have made tax deductible donations via the Foundation website www.ceosyd.catholic.edu.au/foundation. Our school community also recognizes the Foundation’s sponsors, particularly Lowes/Beare and Ley, Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club, Club Central Hurstville and Club Central Menai. Their significant financial commitment is a great help to families in our school and in other Catholic schools in Sydney.