Dear Parents

Ms Flocco led the staff in the following prayer at our staff briefing last week. This ‘Prayer for Good Neighbours’ is particularly relevant to our community as the ethos of our College is based on the Parable of the Good Samaritan which explores the question: “Who is my Neighbour?”

Prayer for Good Neighbours

In a spirit of gratitude and humility, let us lift up prayers for good neighbours.

Let us pray that we may all be good neighbours, not just to people we know by name and face but also to people estranged from us by ethnicity, by ability, by gender, by class, by education, by wealth, by politics, or by any of the many fences that separate one from another.

Let us be honest and pray not so much that we be good neighbours as that we become better neighbours.

When we look into our own hearts, we realize how tempting it is to pursue victory instead of progress. We realize how easy it is to magnify our losses.

We see how difficult it is to acknowledge needs greater than our own.

Yet we pray that we may become better neighbours, accomplishing all of these things and even more.

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Congratulations to our Year 8 students who performed very well in the recent Religious Education Tests. I particularly acknowledge the students who achieved High Distinctions – Sarah Testa, Emily Jones, Nicholas Olegario and Angelo Beretta. This is an outstanding effort from these students.

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Thank you to the parents who contributed to making our Parents’ Helpers Evening so enjoyable last week. I thank Mrs Ciampa, Mrs Golubic and Mrs Romeo for their organizational efforts and take this opportunity to express my sincerest thanks to all of our parents who have assisted in the canteen, the library, the uniform shop and with exam supervision this year. We are indeed fortunate to have such a high level of support from parents.

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Next Wednesday (December 5th) will be a pupil-free day for students. Teachers will be spending the day developing strategies to address the literacy needs of students in light of our NAPLAN data. We will be particularly focusing on improving students reading skills and practices.

Ms J Donovan
PRINCIPAL

Presentation of Awards Evening

Tuesday 11 December 7.00pm
All students in Years 7-10 are expected to attend
This is a wonderful opportunity for our community to celebrate the many achievements of our students for 2012 and to showcase their talents.

Year 11 Presentation of Awards Assembly
This year we will celebrate the academic, cultural and sporting achievements of our Year 11 students with a special assembly to be held on Friday 14 December at 12.30pm. The assembly will be finished by 2.00pm.

All parents and family members are most welcome to join with us in celebrating these successes.
Assistant Principal

Feast of Christ the King

Last Sunday we celebrated the feast of Christ The King. This celebration reminds us that Christ indeed triumphed over death and reigns in the Kingdom of God. The feast also calls us to be people who proclaim Christ's Kingdom here on earth every day of our lives. At Good Samaritan I am frequently impressed with the way the students interact with each other in a manner which speaks of this Kingdom. Likewise I am impressed with the way the staff bring the values of the Kingdom to their work. As we come to the end of this Liturgical year let's give thanks for the presence of the Kingdom of God at Good Samaritan, let's also pray that each and every one of us might bring the values of peace, love and justice to all of our interactions with each other.

StudentAttendance

As Term 4 draws to a close with less than three weeks of formal classes and yearly exams completed I need to remind all students that our expectations around attendance and punctuality are very clear. All students are expected to be at school with all necessary equipment up to and including the last day of the year. Teachers are still preparing good meaningful lessons and the opportunity to engage with their peers and teachers in the learning process is still very real.

I urge all parents to make sure that your son's and daughter's are at school each and every day making the most of the opportunities that are made available to them between now and Tuesday 14th December when formal classes conclude for the year.

Semester Two Reports

Semester Two Reports for students in years 7-10 will be posted home on Friday 14 December. Teachers will be available to discuss these reports and the student's progress on Thursday 20 December between 8.30am and 10.30am and 1.30pm and 3.30pm. If you wish to make an appointment to see any of the teachers please phone the College office and leave a message for the relevant teacher.

Mr P Scollard
Assistant Principal

Student Welfare Coordinator

To the Parents

This week I would like to look at how challenging it can be to set and maintain boundaries for your children. Teenagers are experts at pushing boundaries. They do this because they want to know if you will relent and let them have their way. They are also stretching their independence muscles. All in all it can be an emotional encounter between you and your child.

Let's be clear. Your teenage children know you have set limits. They want and expect these boundaries. Your children know they are necessary because they don't yet have the wisdom to know what's best for them. However, that doesn't mean that they will accept your restrictions gracefully. This is the paradox of the teenage years. Only in their adult years will they reflect on the way they were raised and understand the love in which these boundaries were set.

One of the ways to minimise the tension that can arise in this area it is to talk with your children about why you have placed these restrictions on them. This will help them to understand your values and expectations. If you set a time for your 14 year old son to arrive home at 10pm, often he will argue for a later time. When this happens listen to his reasons. There might be room for negotiation. There may not. At least listen and hear him out. He will appreciate this even if he doesn't get his way. Your son may be disappointed and may show this but at least he is clear about your expectations and aware of the consequences if he doesn't comply.

As Christmas is fast approaching, I believe it is valuable to have a conversation with your teenage children about the limits around spending on Christmas gifts. They need to know there is no endless amount of money available for gifts. Parents do not need to spend large amounts of money on gifts for their children. Teenagers can be quite understanding in this regard. They appreciate there is no connection between their value as members of your family and the value of their gifts. This can also be explained to well meaning relatives.

Let's be clear. Your teenage children know you have to set limits. They want and expect these boundaries. Your children know they are necessary because they don't yet have the wisdom to know what's best for them. However, that doesn't mean that they will accept your restrictions gracefully. This is the paradox of the teenage years. Only in their adult years will they reflect on the way they were raised and understand the love in which these boundaries were set.

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In setting limits for your children you are teaching them a very valuable lesson. You are helping them to develop self-control and a sense of what it means to behave responsibly.

I wish you well.

Mr M Bell
Student Welfare Coordinator

2013 Student Textbooks Orders Reminder

Parents are reminded that all Textbook Orders for students in Years 7-11 2013 must be placed directly with Endeavour by 4 December via one of the following means:

Online
Mail
Fax

Students and parents are advised to check their 2013 Textbook List their son/daughter has received as there have been some changes from previous years. It is an expectation that students have the correct textbook for each subject.

Additional Textbook Lists are available from the College Office for students who were absent when the lists were distributed in Week 6.

Please note that any orders placed AFTER the deadline of December 4th will need to be collected directly from Endeavour Education at Padstow, as the orders will not be delivered to the College in time for the commencement of the 2013 school year.

Mrs C Anderson
Curriculum Coordinator - Administration
Year 8 Science Excursion Report

On the 21st and 22nd of November, Year 8 took part on an excursion to Olympic Park. All students engaged in the day were involved in a range of activities, where we took note on the organisms in which Olympic Park was distinguished as their home.

Year 8 completed an assortment of activities in which we observed the different ecosystems in Olympic Park along with food chains/webs and organisms in which are inhabitants of the Mangroves of Olympic Park. We were taken on a boardwalk tour where we witnessed different organisms and their homes and their adaptations to survive in a particular environment. We then documented these observations in a result table.

We tested the soil, water and air for the humidity, speed, cleanliness and whether or not they were acidic or neutral. We did this by using a range of equipment and chemicals and recorded them into a table; we then summed up each element with a quick conclusion.

We concluded the day by catching any bugs or insects in a large container of sample water from the nearby lake. In this container contained bugs and insects in which were living in the lakes of Olympic Park. We used a spoon to catch any bugs we saw moving around in the water and placed them into either an ice tray or an ice-cube looking box that acted as a magnifying glass to observe these creatures further, we then wrote down whether they were sensitive, very sensitive, tolerant or very tolerant and concluded the activity with a quick conclusion.

Over all, the Science excursion to Olympic Park was a great experience for Year 8 and was thoroughly enjoyed by many.

By Caitlin Pace
Year 8 student

Disability Provisions
for the
Higher School Certificate
Examinations 2013
Information for Students and Parents

What are Disability Examination Provisions?
The Office of the Board of Studies has developed Disability Examination Provisions to assist students in completing the Higher School Certificate examinations. The Board of Studies aims to offer practical support by allowing provisions for students who may have a special examination need – whether it is related to a physical condition, visual impairment, hearing loss, trouble expressing ideas in writing or a reading difficulty.

How do I make an application for Disability Provisions?

- If you require more information Mrs C Leonello will be available from Monday to Thursday to answer any questions.
- Fill out the form available from Mrs C Leonello giving permission for the school to put in an application for you. Return it to Mrs C Leonello by 14th December 2012.
- Be prepared to go through a process of discussion and some assessing in order to put in an application. There is a considerable amount of information to gather and applications need to be submitted to the Board of Studies by the end of Term 1 2013.
- For some provisions, Medical Certificates and documentation will need to be collected, supporting the application.

Please contact the Mrs C Leonello via the College office if you have any further questions.

Italian idiom of the week
Non dare consigli a chi non il chiede - Never give advice unless asked

On Campus Uniform Shop
has now re-opened

The uniform shop which is now run by “On Campus Schoolwear” will be open every

Wednesday from 12.00 – 4.00pm.

We will also be open during the school holidays on the following days:

Monday, 21 January 2013 from 10.00 – 4.00pm
Tuesday, 22 January 2013 from 10.00 – 4.00pm
Wednesday, 23 January 2013 from 10.00 – 4.00pm
On Wednesday 21 November, a group of Year 10 and 11 students attended a gathering of schools in the Sydney Archdiocese at the Southern Cross Catholic Vocational College to discuss the 2012 Social Justice Sunday Statement. The theme of the statement, as outlined on the day by Bishop Christopher Saunders, is *The Gift of the Family in Difficult Times: the social and economic challenges facing families today*. The students engaged in a number of activities throughout the day that encouraged them to look at the importance of the family unit and reflect on strategies and actions that can be taken in order to preserve its sanctity in the face of hardship. The group was particularly touched by the keynote presentation by Jonathon Ngor, a Sudanese refugee who shared his inspirational story of escaping his home and tragically losing his loved ones as they searched for a better life. The students’ curiosity in his real life experience was exemplified by the numerous questions asked in the Q&A session after his presentation, where it was evident that they were particularly interested in how Jonathon’s life lessons and experiences were reflected in the parenting of his own children.

The students then attended two workshops. The first one was presented by Catholic Care who discussed how, through their Intensive Family Support Services, they work with families to help them stay together when they are facing real and difficult problems that can cause members of the family to be unsafe and not able to meet each other’s needs. The second workshop was presented by SHINE for Kids, which is an organisation that assists children with a parent in the criminal justice system. They offer support to children to facilitate opportunities to bond with their incarcerated parent.

The afternoon session provided students with an opportunity to reflect on the theme of the day and develop a school response to the challenges presented in the 2012 Social Justice Sunday Statement.

Overall the day was very insightful and challenged our students to not only contemplate the place of the family, but to also commit to implementing initiatives in the school setting. Many thanks to the following students for their enthusiastic participation in the day: Konrad Ryzak, Sarah Taccia, Tiffany McPherson, Rebecca Gore, Joseph Pipicella and Paul Phan.

Miss S Romolo
Social Justice Team

Archdiocesan Social Justice Day 2012

“Raise your Voice for Justice”