Students should now have settled into their study routine. Our seniors, Years 10, 11 and 12 are beginning their assessment tasks for the various courses. Parents would be aware of the significance of these tasks, as they count toward final grades and marks to be submitted to the Board of Studies for Years 10 and 12, and performance in assessment tasks determines final grades and ranks for the Year 11 Preliminary course. It is also important that Years 7, 8 and 9 complete their assessment tasks to the best of their ability to ensure, not only pleasing grades on reports, but the development of good study habits in the future.

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Congratulations to everyone involved in last week’s Swimming Carnival. Our thanks to Mr Zahra, Mr Wheeler 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 energy and house spirit, and thank you to parents for your attendance. The war cries were all brilliant but the De Paul House was declared the winner - a very difficult decision for the judges. I congratulate Age Champions, Runners Up and those students who broke school records. Special congratulations to the victorious Chisholm House. Swimming Carnival trophies were presented to students during our College Assembly this morning.

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I draw your attention to the advertisement for our Open Day for Year 7, 2012, in this newsletter. The morning will commence with a presentation to prospective parents and students at 11am, followed by guided tours of the school. All Year 6 students and parents are most welcome.

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Good luck to our public speakers who compete in the first round of the Catholic Schools Public Speaking Competition tonight.
Mr Scolland will be Acting Principal for the last couple of weeks of this term and Mr Kingsman will be Acting Assistant Principal. I need to have a knee replacement, but I will be back at the beginning of Term 2.

Ms J Donovan
PRINCIPAL

Assistant Principal

ESSA
All students in Year 9 will bring home the results for the Essential Secondary Science Assessment (ESSA) exams which they sat late in Year 8. As a cohort our students performed very well in this assessment item with 64% of students achieving a Level 4, 5 or 6 in comparison 61% of the state achieved at these levels.

Study Skills
A reminder that the school subscribes to the Online Study Skills Handbook which is a wonderful source of ideas and strategies to aid students in better approaching their studies. This resource can be found at www.studyskillshandbook.com.au.

Our school’s subscription details are -
Username: forgscconly:
Password: 48results

The following are a list of common mistakes made by students in their study regime. These may be good conversation starters for parents and their sons and daughters.

1. Not making study notes on a regular basis, instead, waiting till just before the test or exam.
2. Not finishing the study notes early enough before the test so there is not enough time to learn them properly or do practise.
3. Not making the study notes brain-friendly and structured in a way that makes them easy to learn.
4. Not testing yourself to see if you know the content or not, just reading your notes over and over.
5. Not using a wide range of study techniques, being lazy and just using the same old techniques, regardless of whether they are working for you or not.
6. Not doing practice for exams under exam conditions (ie time limits and not looking at notes or answers).
7. Not doing questions from a wide enough range of sources.

Mr P Scolland
Assistant Principal

RE Coordinator

This Sunday’s gospel (John 2:13-25) is one of those unique ones where we are confronted with a side of Jesus which can sometimes be troubling. Jesus drives the money changers out of the Temple with a whip. This angry reaction of Jesus is starkly contrasted with the compassion that we see of Him when He heals the sick, forgives the sinner, teaches and cries over the death of His friend. It is even more starkly contrasted with the way in which He quietly goes to His death. This dramatic scene highlights Jesus’ replacing of the Temple as the focus of God’s presence in the world. No longer does God dwell in the Temple in Jerusalem but in the presence of Jesus experienced through His teachings, forgiveness and healings. This presence is then made real in us at our baptism. We become Christ teaching, healing and forgiving. Within Lent we need to ensure that we are focusing on the living Jesus within us and ask ourselves the questions to I allow Christ to live through me and am I Christ to those who I meet, live with and care for. We can extend this even further by asking the question am I Christ to those who I don't even know, will never meet but I can care for through my charity. With Project Compassion under way I just want to highlight one way that our offerings of money make a difference. We know the cost of textbooks for our own students which are high but $5 Australian will provide a year supply of textbooks for a student in a refugee camp on the Thai-Burma border. If each of us offer $5 a week over the next four weeks the number of students we would be able to provide textbooks for is 5000. Let us be Christ to these children.

Mr P Kingsman
RE Coordinator
Students come to my office to share their concerns for many reasons. Mostly they are looking for someone to listen to them. I often ask the students if they have spoken to their parents about their concerns. Mostly the answer is they haven’t. Their reasons for this include not wanting to worry or upset their parents or because they feel their parents are busy or that they wouldn’t understand. This raises the point of how essential it is to keep the communication open between parents and their children.

The fact is that adolescents desire a strong connection with their parents and carers even though, during times of conflict, that is difficult to believe. However, the research is very clear. In 2011 a National Survey of Young Australians by Mission Australia was completed by 45,916 young people. Ninety-eight per cent of respondents were aged from 11 to 19. Of that number seventy-five per cent valued family relationships as their highest priority.

Children want and need a strong connection with their parents. They feel lost and alone when that bond is missing from their lives. Adolescents are at that point in their development when they are seeking independence and yet need their parents’ trust and support. This is an inner conflict for our young people. They are not completely dependent on their parents nor are they independent of them. The resolution of that conflict can test the patience of the best of parents.

There is no doubt that raising teenagers can be a challenging task. We live in a fast-changing world. Parents can feel overwhelmed by the rapid change and the busyness of life. Many parents rush their children off to sport or other activities. There seems there is so little time to talk one on one to their children.

Whilst acknowledging the time pressures of life can I suggest that the best time you will spend in the week is to find the time to have a one on one chat to your children. This will give them the opportunity to have you all to themselves for a few minutes. If two or three weeks have passed and you haven’t had such a conversation please make it a priority.

Best wishes,

Mr M Bell
Student Welfare Coordinator
World Maths Day 2012

World Maths Day is an international event, where students participate in 60 second arithmetic battles, with students from all over the world. This year Good Samaritan once again celebrated this tremendous event. Throughout the practice rounds the college consistently ranked as one of the top schools of the world. Our classes were regularly in the top 50 and our students represented the college with pride on the leader board.

World Maths Day officially began on Tuesday 6th March at 10pm and since then our students have been busy typing away and using their mathematical skills to answer the questions as quickly as possible. On Wednesday, students were given the opportunity to compete in the competition during their Mathematics lessons. This once again proved to be a tremendous success. In the following newsletter we will have a full leader board update with statistics on the performance in our students. In the meantime, I would like to congratulate them all on their tremendous efforts.

Mr G Georgiou
Assistant Mathematics Co-ordinator

Congratulations MAFNRDs

Regional Mass Hospitality
CSDA Public Speaking 2012

As a result of the heavy rain across Sydney the first round of the CSDA Public Speaking competition was postponed to Friday 9th March. The first round will occur here at the college and feature twelve students across years 7 to 12. In previous years GSCHC has had a good strike rate in regards to students progressing the Zone Final so hopefully the home ground advantage will assist our students in making 2012 a successful year for public speaking. Below is a list of all the students who are representing the college in this year’s competition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 7 DIVISION</th>
<th>Emily Arndell</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Hemmings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 8 DIVISION</td>
<td>Fatimah Khan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Caitlin Pace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 9 DIVISION</td>
<td>Kristy Bartels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Harry Butler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 10 DIVISION</td>
<td>Chanelle Finau</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dylan Vidal</td>
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<tr>
<td>SENIOR DIVISION</td>
<td>Sinead Cummins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Justin Jarrett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maddison McPherson</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sarah Santangelo</td>
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Mr M Bradbury
Public Speaking and Debating Coordinator

Year 9 Commerce Taste Test

On the 15th and 16th of February, the Year 9 Commerce classes participated in a taste test which involved bringing in several different brands of a variety of products and conducting a comparison between them. These included different brands of chips, snakes, cola and chocolate. After comparing each product by their brand, reputation, taste and cost, we learnt a lot about what influences the preferences of consumers today. For instance, we discovered that many consumers do prefer the products that have a good reputation, as many of us ranked Lindt chocolate as the best-tasting. From this, we discussed as a class why it is also more expensive when compared to the other brands of chocolate.

Overall, the commerce taste test was a great lesson that was both fun and educational. It gave us an insight into the mind of a consumer and what influences us to buy. We would also like to thank Miss Romolo for giving us the chance to participate in an interactive task which was thoroughly enjoyed by all students.

Year 9 Commerce students - Kristy Bartels and Lauren Espino

Year 12 Textiles and Design Excursion

On Monday the 27th of February, Year 12 Textiles and Design students travelled to the Muse, Sydney Institute of Technology, Ultimo, where they viewed the outstanding 2011 Textiles Major Works. Students also attended a seminar presented by an experienced HSC practical marker, where they gained valuable information about both the textile item and portfolio.

Students were blown away by the high standard of work displayed at the exhibition and are now currently working towards producing their own Major Textiles Projects for submission later on in the year.

Miss K Sobkowski, Textiles and Design Teacher
The Annual Good Samaritan Catholic College Swimming Carnival was held on Friday 24th February 2012. There were many outstanding performances in the pool throughout the day. Congratulations to the Champion House for 2012 Chisholm. The points table finished as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Chisholm</td>
<td>599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Polding</td>
<td>544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>De Paul</td>
<td>435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Merici</td>
<td>361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Mackillop</td>
<td>343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>La Salle</td>
<td>308</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following students were named Age Champions from the day.
12 year boys age champion – Sergio Russo
12 year girls age champion – Aleisha Moxon
13 year boys age champion – Joseph Romeo
13 year girls age champion – Giulia Puttiger
14 year boys age champion – Ivan Razlog
14 year girls age champion – Bianca Moss
15 year boys age champion – Brandon Cook
15 year girls age champion – Chanelle Finau
16 year boys age champion – Nathan Versi
16 year girls age champion – Laura Cross
17+ year boys age champion – George Macri
17+ year girls age champion – Marina Pavic

On the day a number of College records were broken. These records were broken in the following events.
**Ivan Razlog** – 14 Year Boys 50m Breaststroke
**Brandon Cook** – 15 Year Boys 50m Freestyle
**Chanelle Finau** – 15 Year Girls 100m Freestyle, 50m Freestyle, 50m Backstroke, 50m Butterfly and 50m Breaststroke.

Mr S Zahra
Sport Coordinator
Congratulations to De Paul 2012 War Cry Winners!!
DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday 13th March
Vaccinations all Year 7

Saturday 17th March
College Open Day 11am - 1.00pm

MONDAY TO THURSDAY

Colleges Uniform Shop Opening Hours

Monday to Thursday only each week 7:30am - 8:20am

Also open Tuesday 27th March
12 noon to 3.45pm

Sport Uniform enquiries fortnightly with On Campus from Wednesday 21st March 2.45pm and 4.45pm.

OPEN DAY

Saturday 17 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 2013.

All are welcome to attend.

The Good Samaritan Catholic College is a community committed to quality education. Students are encouraged to strive for excellence in all aspects of their lives, in a Catholic environment based on the values taught by Jesus Christ

Journeying with Compassion