Dear Parents and Friends of the College,

Holy Week
As I was driving to school listening to the radio, a listener called in lamenting the fact that they needed to make a hat for a school Easter Hat Parade. I realised that, for those of us in Catholic Schools, this week is not about Easter Hat Parades or even getting ready for the Easter Bunny. My own children, who are in a Catholic primary school, are busily preparing for their Holy Week Liturgies; they have brought home the palms that they have made to commemorate Palm Sunday and are learning new hymns, which they will sing as they commemorate Christ’s Passion. One of them is rehearsing for his part in the dramatization of the Stations of the Cross this Friday.

All of this reminds us, that as Christians, we mark this time of year with our hearts and minds on Christ. We recall that our God sent his son ready to die for us and the truth which He’s proclaimed through His words and deeds. We are lucky that we know the story does not end with the cross but with the resurrection. Christ’s resurrection is the most endearing sign of a promise that there is more for each and every one of us than the life we experience here on earth. It is also a sign of the fact that goodwill, done on a daily basis, triumphs over evil.

At Good Samaritan, each and every day, we see evidence of the good that exists in our world in both the staff and teachers. We see this when our senior students and volunteer teachers give up their Saturday’s to work with the St Vincent De Paul Society to feed some of Sydney’s homeless. We also see it when our students treat one another with respect and work together to raise funds for Project Compassion. We see it when we gather together in prayer, be it each Friday lunch for mass or as a whole school for Liturgy as we did today, to commemorate the Passion of our Lord.

The challenge for each of us, as we celebrate that Christ overcoming evil and rising from the dead, is to make sure that our lives mirror the resurrection – to make sure that we are people who proclaim the strength of God in our words and deeds.

A very holy and blessed Easter to all members of the our community.

CSDA Public Speaking
Congratulations to Kristy Bartels of Year 9, who recently represented the College in the final of the Catholic Schools Debating Association Public Speaking Competition. Kristy’s performance was outstanding, especially if you take into account the fact that this year is the first time that Kristy has competed in Public Speaking. Congratulations also to Mr Bradbury who, as always, did an outstanding job of organising and training our public speakers.
Thanks to the many staff members who left the comfort of their beds and their families to accompany our Year’s 7 and 9 students on their camps last week. It requires a significant commitment to go away for three days with a group of teenagers. At Good Samaritan we are blessed with a generous staff who always volunteer to provide extra opportunities for the students here. On behalf of the parents and students of Years 7 and 9, I thank them for their time, energy and enthusiasm.

Term 1

As we come to the end of the term, it is worth taking note of the many opportunities made available to the students at Good Samaritan across the first 10 weeks of the school year. As well as providing excellent learning opportunities, the staff here have consistently given of their time to provide a very broad range of extra-curricular opportunities for your sons and daughters. The following is a list of just some of these opportunities due to the great generosity of the staff;

- The Opening School Mass
- The CEO Southern Region Mass
- The 2012 College Open Day
- The coaching and training of MISA sports teams
- The College Swimming Carnival
- The Southern Sydney Swimming Carnival
- Participation in the Newman Stream Research Project for gifted learners
- An information evening for parents of students in the Newman Stream
- The Ash Wednesday Liturgies
- Southern Sydney Rugby League Trials
- CSDA Public Speaking training and competitions
- Year 10 Parent Information Evening
- Year 12 Parent Teacher Interviews
- Participation in the Sydney Alliance
- A host of excursions across all years and KLA’s
- Year 10 Reflection Day
- Participation in the CaSPA rehearsals
- Year 7 Progress Reports
- Year 7 Parent Teacher Interviews
- Holy Week Liturgy
- Hosting the “Study without Stress Program”
- Extra lessons set for the Easter Holidays for Year 12 students with major works to complete, such as in Visual Arts and IT Timber
- Tutorials run after school for students in a variety of KLA’s
- Homework Help in the Library twice a week until 4.00pm
- Senior Study each Thursday until 6.00pm

I realise that in some instances it may take some time for families to replace the shoes students are currently wearing. It is expected that all students will commence Term 2 meeting all College requirements when wearing their sports uniform. The first day back for Term 2 is Monday 23rd April and students are expected to be in full winter uniform i.e. all students must wear their blazer and, if needed, the college jumper. All boys are to wear their long sleeve white shirt with the College tie. All girls must wear black tights. For sport, the full track suit can be worn. No jumper can be worn with the sport uniform or tracksuit. It is not permitted to mix any part of the old track suit with the new tracksuit.

Mr P Kingsman
Acting Assistant Principal

Good Samaritan Catholic College is fortunate to have an outstanding reputation in the local community. Such a reputation evolves over time and is formed because of the way members of the wider community perceive the students. At times, these judgements are based on the behaviour of students, or personal encounters people have with our students. Another very real way in which people judge Good Samaritan is by the way in which our students present themselves when travelling to and from school and when representing the College at sport or extracurricular activities. As a general rule, our students look outstanding, and wear their uniform with pride.

One aspect of the College uniform which a number of students need to attend to at present is the way in which they are wearing their Sports uniform. The GSCC socks are a part of the College Sports uniform and all students are expected to wear these when the Sports uniform is worn. The expectation is that sports shoes are to be “predominantly white, lace up sports shoes which provide adequate support when participating in physical activity” Canvas casual shoes, whether lace up or slip on such as Dunlop Volleys or Converse brand shoes, are not acceptable.

Mr P Scollard
Acting Principal

Religious Education

During Holy Week, it is a good time to think of those people who are going to be baptised into the faith at Saturday’s Easter Vigil. For many people this has been an interesting and faith filled journey with the Christian community and so need to be supported by the community with prayer and encouragement.

We would particularly like to pray for Maddison McPherson in Year 12 who will be baptised on Saturday night Easter Vigil at Holy Spirit Church. This is a wonderful witness to our community of a young adult responding to the call of the gospel. This witness of Maddison reminds us of those promises made on our behalf at our own infant baptism.

We will renew these promises ourselves over the Easter celebration and I pray that the rest of the year is spent living and understanding these promises.
The Secrets to Changing Children’s Behaviour

Most parents at some stage are driven to distraction by one or more of their children’s annoying habits or behaviours, whether it is a toddler who continually whines, a school-aged child who leaves clothing around or a teenager whose mood swings make communication impossible.

How to get their children to change their behaviour is quite a challenge for most parents. Do you ignore a child’s annoying behaviour or do you pick up on it?

Michael Grose, psychologist and parent educator suggests that a useful rule of thumb is to pick up on behaviours that are dangerous to the child or significantly infringe on the rights and comfort of others. It may also be helpful to consider if the behaviour is reasonable for the child’s age and to consider if there are some pressures that the child is experiencing at this time.

Grose identifies four principles that if applied patiently and persistently will help in changing your child’s behaviour.

Principle one: Change your initial response first
This is important because children’s behaviour generally requires a pay-off, which may be your attention or an attempt to get the better of you. In changing your behaviour and responding in a more considered way you will bring about change in your child’s behaviour.

Principle two: Practise with your child the behaviours that you want
The notion of behaviour rehearsal is fundamental to learning a new behaviour. Don’t just tell your children what you expect, get them to practise the behaviour you want.

Principle three: Minimise the behaviour you don’t want
That means when your children continue their old behaviour despite their promises to change, you ignore it, sidestep it or implement a consequence but don’t nag or harp on it. Remember it takes time to change a behaviour, particularly if it has been happening for a long time.

Principle four: Praise the appropriate behaviour
When your children behave in the desired way show your appreciation. The behaviours we focus on expand so we need to focus our attention on desirable behaviours more than on the negative ones.

Like any process it will only work if you stick to it and follow it through. And don’t be afraid to adapt it to suit your circumstances. In the end, it will be your patience and consistency that will be the major reason for your child’s changed behaviour.

Best wishes

Mr M Bell
Student Welfare Coordinator

Italian Proverbs

Natale con i tuoi e pasqua con chi vuoi - Christmas is a time for family and Easter is a time for friends
Year 11 Physics

“I think physicists are the Peter Pans of the human race. They never grow up and they keep their curiosity.” - Isidor Isaac Rabi (Physicist)

As Ms Martin gave us our introduction to Preliminary Physics, excitement filled the air as she told us about our experiments, which involve colliding trolleys, playing with matchbox cars and walking around the school with trundle wheels. The next few weeks involved learning about equilibrium, acceleration, vector forces and now momentum. Through this, we have learnt to strive to achieve our best while still enjoying the journey there.

Philip Nguyen and Khatelynne Tablante, Year 11 Students

Debating Launching Soon

With the CSDA Public Speaking competition coming to a close, we will soon make way for the arrival of the debating season. In recent years the College has strengthened its performance in debating and has had success in numerous competitions. It is hoped that 2012 will continue to build upon these foundations to ensure our most successful season yet. The past few weeks students have been asked to register their interest in representing the College and it is great to see many new faces eagerly signing up for the opportunity to engage in debate. I would encourage any students who feel even the slightest bit interested to ensure they register their name for debating. Even if it is to act as a chairperson or timekeeper their service is valued and it provides more nervous students with an opportunity to be a part of the debating squad without the pressure of competition. With plans underway for a new in-school House competition there has never been a better time for your son or daughter to join debating.

Public Speaking and Debating at GSCC: YES YOU CAN!

Mr M Bradbury
Public Speaking and Debating Coordinator
Mathematics Report

With the end of Term 1 fast approaching, it is time to recognise the pleasing achievement of some of our talented mathematicians. The following students have been rewarded for their hard work, dedication and results so far this year. Well done MAFNRDS.

Mrs M Cook
Mathematics Coordinator

Year 7
Tam Thai
Jeremy Kassissieh
Karen Nguyen
Daniel Ugarte
Liana Tomelic
Mathew Wrezounik
Annalisa Naamo
Michael Ruiz-Chavez
Jonathan Sequeira

Year 8
Monique Duncombe
George Halloun
Alex Attard
Nehal Prasad
Michael Naranjo
Christopher Bebawi

Year 9
Avinesh Mudaliar
Damien Esposito
Frank Canturi
Haven Ching
Tracey Tran
Kristy Bartels

Year 10
Vincent Calabro
Stephen Aziz
Lucas Ruzic
Jacinta Gatto
Jason Marras
Paul Phan
Peter Phan

CSDA Public Speaking Grand Final

On Friday 23rd March Kristy Bartels of Year 9 represented the College in the grand final of the CSDA Public Speaking Competition. This event featured students from Catholic schools across the entire Sydney metropolitan area. To reach this level of competition is always a great achievement but what was impressive about this year was that this was Kristy’s first year competing in the competition. In fact it was Kristy’s first time in any public speaking competition. Kristy was a regular participant in the afternoon public speaking coaching sessions at the College last year and had simply made it her goal to deliver a good speech and be competitive in the first round. In the end she was more than just competitive in the first round as she progressed to the Zone Final and then to the Grand Final.

Having made it to the Grand Final, Kristy was then set the challenge that would make most people cower in fear. She planned to deliver her five minute speech without the aid of palm cards. This is a huge challenge of any public speaker but for a student in their first year of competition this was extraordinary.

On the night, every speaker in her room was an accomplished orator and Kristy may have been forgiven for thinking that she had no chance of achieving a place. Unfortunately while that was the case, Kristy gave her best performance so far in the competition and established herself as a true contender. The experience gained from this year’s competition will no doubt be valuable in future years of public speaking. It will also assist her performance in the upcoming debating season next term. Finally it will hopefully encourage other quiet achievers at the College to realise that with commitment and dedication public speaking and debating are activities that can produce rewarding experiences and lifelong skills.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the staff who supported Kristy at the Grand Final. Thank you to Mr Dominish for adjudicating and Mr Scollard and Mrs Kennedy for supporting the night.

Mr M Bradbury
Public Speaking and Debating Coordinator
Year 7 Camp
DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday 23rd April
Term 2 Day 1

Wednesday 25th April
ANZAC DAY

Tuesday 1st May
Year 9 Laptop Information Evening

Thursday 3rd May
SCHOOL PHOTOS

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

COLLEGE UNIFORM SHOP OPENING HOURS
Monday to Thursday 7.30am - 8.20am
CLOSED ON FRIDAYS

Also open Tuesday 24th April, 8th May, 22nd May, 5th June
and 19th June,
12 noon to 3.45pm

On Campus Sport Uniform pickups and measurements on
Wednesday 2nd May and Thursday 3rd May
between 10am - 3.30pm

Year Coordinator’s Award

This award is to recognise those students who continuously do the right thing, who are exemplary members of the Good Samaritan Community. They wear their uniform with pride, always behave appropriately and respectfully and generally make Good Samaritan a better place for us to learn and work together.

As well as receiving a certificate at a Year Assembly, the students will have their names published in the College Newsletter and will receive a $5.00 voucher which can be redeemed at the College Canteen.

I congratulate the following students who are recipients of the Pastoral Care Coordinators Awards for this fortnight.

Year 7  Kerry Hita
Year 10  Tomaslav Pavic
Year 12  Jason Boustany

Year 9  Thien Nguyen
Year 11  Eden Samuel

CONGRATULATIONS

Jessica Stikovic in Year 10 won the Silver Medal in Hammer & came 4th in the Discus at Nationals last week.

Years 7-9 Girls Volleyball on winning the MISA Grandfinal