Dear Parents and Friends of the College,

Happy Mothers Day to all mothers. I hope you enjoyed your special day last weekend. I received the following poem from our Regional Director, Dr Mark Turkington, and I thought I would share it with you. It conveys so beautifully the relationship that many of us have with our mothers. As Catholics we also remember that Mary is the pre-eminent mother and that is the reason she occupies a central place in our religious tradition. I take this opportunity to acknowledge all mothers for their love and sacrifice and for the indispensable role they play in our lives.

A Poem...
Your mother is always with you...
She is the whisper of the leaves as you walk down the street.
She is the smell of bleach in your freshly laundered socks.
She is the cool hand on your brow when you are not well.
Your mother lives inside your laughter. She’s crystallized in every teardrop...
She’s the place you came from.. She’s the map you follow with every step you take.
She’s your first love and your first heart break... and nothing on earth can separate you.
Not time, Not space... Not even death... will ever separate you from your mother...
You carry her inside you...

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A feature of Good Samaritan Catholic College is that we try to give students as many opportunities as possible to support members of the school and wider community and thereby demonstrate their ‘faith in action’. Initiatives taken in recent times include students’ substantial contribution (over $7200) to Project Compassion, and $1200 to the Cancer Council. Senior students and teachers have also been giving up their Saturday mornings to assist with the St Vincent de Paul ‘Brekky Van’ which feeds the homeless in the city. Finally, at our recent College Assembly, a representative of the Salvation Army invited students to participate in this weekend’s Red Shield Appeal, and he received an overwhelming response. Thank you and congratulations to teachers and students for these initiatives which are all examples of giving witness to the College’s Mission Statement.

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Year 7 and 9 students seemed to cope quite well with the national NAPLAN literacy and numeracy tests that were conducted across three days this week. The data from these tests will enable us to identify the degree of ‘learning gain’ since students last did these tests, and will assist us in addressing the individual literacy and numeracy needs of students. Our thanks to Mr Georgiou for his outstanding organisational efforts, ensuring that the tests ran smoothly with no angst created for students.

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The debating season commenced last Friday. Well done to students who were selected in teams to represent the College, and congratulations on their performances. Thank you to Mr Bradbury for his overall organisation efforts, to the coaches and adjudicators – Miss Raso, Miss Parsons, Mr Loughlin, Mr O’Sullivan, Mrs Fegatilli, Mrs Anderson and Mr Kingsman, and to all the teachers who continually give up their Friday evenings to support our students. Debating has a very high profile in the College as a result of the generosity of so many people. We wish our students all the best in the coming weeks.

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Our congratulations to Nicholas Olegario (Year 8) whose dance group “The lil’ Banditz” won Young Talent Time. I am continually amazed by the degree of talent in the
performing arts displayed by our students. We look forward to watching a large number of them performing in the Archdiocesan Performing Arts Festival in a couple of weeks time.

Ms J Donovan
PRINCIPAL

Assistant Principal

Year 7 and 8 Parent and Student Study Skills Seminar
Each year the College subscribes to the Online Study Skills Handbook www.studyskillshandbook.com.au. This is an excellent online resource which aims to develop the students organisational and study skills. As a part of this program we engage Prue Psalter, the owner of this website, to work with students in Years 9, 10 and 11. We also engage her to conduct a parents and student information evening for students in Years 7 and 8. This year Prue will be conducting this session during week 6 on Tuesday 29th May at 7.00pm in A1 and A2. I encourage every family to attend this very valuable session.

Dropping Students at School
A reminder to parents that the safest place to drop their children in the morning is the College Bus Bay. We have been contacted by the local police recently expressing concerns that a number of parents are pulling up along Hoxton Park Rd to drop children at school. The portion of Hoxton Park Rd outside Good Samaritan is marked with “No Stopping” signs and is within a school zone. The driver of a vehicle which stops in a No Stopping Zone in a School Zone risk a $243.00 fine and the loss of 2 demerit points.

I realise that the Bus Bay can become very congested and that some parents choose to drop their sons and daughters either at Wilson Rd or in First Ave, but please make sure that you are abiding by the parking signs in these areas.

Winter Sports Uniform
A few points of clarification regarding the College’s expectations with regard to students wearing their sports uniform to school as we phase in our new uniform.

Students may wear the old tracksuit with the new sports shirt and shorts.
Students are not to mix the old and new tracksuits ie. they are not to wear the new black tracksuit bottoms with their old maroon tracksuit jackets.
When wearing their tracksuits students are still expected to wear the College sports socks.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Mr P Scollard
Assistant Principal

Religious Education

Ascension and Pentecost
Over the next two Sundays we celebrate two great feasts within the Church, the Ascension and Pentecost. Christ’s ascension sees His return to the Father and reunion of His heavenly nature with that of the Trinity. It is in the ascension that we see our final destination, unity with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit after our bodily resurrection. Pentecost sees the birth of the Church through the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the early disciples gathered in locked room in fear. It was from the Pentecost experience that they drew their courage to be faithful to Christ’s final words prior to His ascension “to go out and proclaim the Good News to all of the nations, baptising in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. The significance for us is that it is only through the power of the Holy Spirit that we received at our baptism that we are able to enter into the death and resurrection of Jesus, the Paschal Mystery. It is also through the power of the Holy Spirit that we also receive the strength to be faithful witnesses to the Good News of salvation in Christ. The Holy Spirit draws us into the life of the Trinity and the promise of the resurrection and ascension.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit.
Come Holy Spirit we need you,
Come Holy Spirit we pray.
Come with Your strength and Your power.
Come in Your own special way.

Congratulations
I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge those students in Year Twelve who obtained an excellent mark in their Half Yearly Examinations.

Studies of Religion II
Jessica Csazar
Jonathon Potter
Ryan Selvage
Annelise Fegatilli
Hassail Perera

Mr P Kingsman
Religious Education Coordinator

Mr P Scollard
Assistant Principal

Performing Arts
Praise Less......Encourage More

This is an interesting headline and certainly caught my attention when I read it last month. It was written by leading parent educator Michael Grose. The following is based on his article.

Encouragement from parents and carers is the key to promoting a sense of self-esteem and a strong sense of self in young people. A confident child is one who takes on different challenges and opens themselves up to many, varied experiences in life and that sort of confidence requires a great deal of courage. This is what makes encouragement important.

Encouragement is different from praise. Praise is like fast food – there’s not a lot of nourishment in it. Encouragement is like a healthy diet – it nourishes you by pointing out strengths you have demonstrated to accomplish something. This is why we should encourage more and praise less.

The object of encouragement is to give your adolescent sons and daughters heart. Praise is more results focused. We praise children when we say, “You did really well in that test” or “That was the best win of the season”. These comments focus on the outcomes and success. Of course, praise is needed and necessary but it needs to be balanced by encouragement.

Encouragement focuses more on your child’s effort, their improvement, their contribution or the enjoyment gained from the activity rather than from the results. Positive expectations and encouragement go hand in hand. Encouraging parents expect their children to succeed, not necessarily straight away and not necessarily with ease. They value their child’s effort more than the outcome.

Sometimes it’s hard to know what to say to your child when they do well or when they struggle. Grose gives his readers the following examples:

“You did a good job of...” This can be for something small and unexpected such as making their bed or cleaning their shoes.

“You’ve improved in...” Children will generally continue to try if they can see improvement in an activity. Sometimes they just don’t know they’re getting better and they need someone to tell them.

“So you made a mistake. What can you learn from it?” No one ever learns much from their successes. So don’t overreact – mistakes are part of the learning.

“I know you can do this even if you think you can’t”. Sometimes it’s hard to know whether to push a child or to let them avoid a situation or activity. If in doubt err on the side of challenging your children rather than letting them something that will benefit them. Children so often surprise themselves and exceed their expectations. All they need is a little encouragement.

Persistence is a great lesson for any child to learn. Resilient children learn that there is a link between success and effort and they may not achieve straight away.

By all means praise achievement but more importantly encourage the effort that went into achieving that success.

Mr M Bell
Student Welfare Coordinator

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 Coordinator’s Awards for this fortnight.

Year 7  Kenny Jirathammakul
Year 8  Caitlin Pace
Year 10  Regine Marte
Year 11  Helen Nguyen
Year 12  Melissa Arndell

College Newsletter

The College newsletter is a great source of information relevant to your child’s education at Good Samaritan. This newsletter is distributed fortnightly for your child to bring home. However, sometimes you may prefer to receive the newsletter electronically. The college website publishes the newsletter - http://www.goodsamaritan.nsw.edu.au/News & Events/. If you would prefer to receive an electronic copy via your email, please email the address below with your child’s name, Year and Pastoral Class.

Sending an email to us at the address below greatly assists in preventing possible transcription errors in misreading handwritten email addresses.

To:  l.lillis@gscchinchook.catholic.edu.au
Subject:  Email newsletter
YEAR 11 VISUAL DESIGN

This assessment involved adapting the puppet animated production of Peter and the Wolf to create costumes to suit the characters which could be used in a play version of the musical.

DUX of Year 10, 2011

Aaron Smith (Year 11) recently collecting his award from Professor Tony Masters of Sydney University
CaSPA REGIONAL REHEARSAL

The next Southern Region Cluster Rehearsal is on 6th June. The choir will be travelling by bus to rehearse at Mary Mackillop College at Wakeley. Students in the massed movement and leads will stay at Good Samaritan and will rehearse in the hall.

Students MUST be in their CASPA uniform at this rehearsal. Students are to wear their CaSPA t-shirt, black pants and black shoes and socks. No logos or markings should be visible. A long sleeve black top is permitted underneath their festival shirts.

Please return the permission slips for this rehearsal as soon as possible to Mrs. Popovic.

Letters and permission notes will be sent out soon regarding the THREE rehearsal and performance days at the Entertainment Centre in week 9 of this term.

Mrs Popovic

Breast Cancer Awareness Fundraising - Pink Ribbon Day

JOURNEYING WITH COMPASSION
JOURNEYING WITH COMPASSION

SWCCDA ROUND 1

Friday 11th May at the college the debating season began with our junior teams facing Thomas Hassall. It ended up being a very successful evening for our debaters with victories in the Year, 8, 9 and 10 divisions. The theme for round 1 was ‘the media’ with topics forcing students to consider the priority the media places on celebrity and decide whether social media is overrated.

It was pleasing to see many students, staff and parents from the college also stay back to watch or support the various teams. The attendance in each room was fantastic and helped create a real home team advantage. Something that I am sure was appreciated by the debaters in each room. In particular thank you to Ms Donovan, Mr Scollard, Mrs Anderson, Mr Loughlin, Mrs Fegatilli, Miss Parsons, Ms Raso, Mr Turner, Miss Bilaver, and Miss Romolo for their attendance and support on the night. Round 2 is against Freeman Catholic College so hopefully by the time you are reading this our teams have experienced more success.

Mr M Bradbury
Public Speaking and Debating Coordinator