Dear Parents

Last week, twenty six Year 10 students from Good Samaritan, and representatives from all the Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Sydney, attended St Mary's Cathedral to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians. Historically this feast day is very significant for Catholics throughout the world, and as a consequence the first Australian Synod placed the Australian Church under Mary's patronage. As the patroness of Australia Mary embodies the ideals of our faith and our country:

Our Lady, Help of Christians
Eternal God,
you chose the Virgin Mary
to mother your only Son
who is the light of the world.
By the help of her intercession,
let the light of Christ shine over this land,
guiding us in faith, justice and love.
Our Lady, Help of Christians, pray for us.

Congratulations to the Year 10 students who were outstanding in the manner in which they represented the school on this occasion.

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Our heartiest congratulations to Pierre Goorkiz, and his family, on Pierre's receipt of the Catholic Club Scholarship. Pierre, who was Dux of Good Samaritan in 2011 with an ATAR of 99.25, was presented with his scholarship at the Annual Catholic Club Mass and Luncheon last Sunday. Pierre spoke very eloquently about his plans to study Medicine and he expressed the desire that he would be able to use his studies to contribute to the community that had done so much for him. We sincerely thank the Liverpool Catholic Club for their ongoing support of our College, and for making this scholarship available to the Good Samaritan Dux each year. Pierre and his family were most appreciative as the scholarship covers all Pierre's fees for his first year of university.

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Thank you to everyone for ensuring the Athletics Carnival was such a successful and enjoyable day. The weather was magnificent, the spirit was absolutely fantastic and there was tremendous leadership shown by the seniors. Thank you to Mr Wheeler for his organizational efforts, to the staff who acted as officials and supervised students, and to parents for your attendance. The day was successful because it was a team effort from all members of our community. Age Champions and the winning house will be presented with their trophies at our next College Assembly.

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A reminder that next Friday (June 8th) will be a Pupil Free Day. Staff will be participating in a Professional Development Day facilitated by Father Peter Smith. We will be revisiting our Mission Statement in the context of the College's current priorities, while ensuring we respect the distinctive traditions and ethos of our College.

Ms J Donovan
PRINCIPAL
Year 7 and 8 Parent Study Skills Evening

It was wonderful to see the great turnout for the study skills evening for students of Years 7 and 8 and their parents on Tuesday evening. This was an excellent opportunity for the students and their parents to discuss the study habits of their sons and daughters and to hear from Prue Salter, an outstanding speaker and researcher in the area of study and maximising results.

For parents who were unable to attend the content of the evening and the resources distributed are available at www.studyskillshandbook.com.au

Username forgscconly
Password 48results

Student Diaries

A reminder to all parents that the College Diary is the our main source of communication. For this reason it is expected that all students have their diaries signed on a weekly basis. PC teachers check this and students who consistently do not have their diaries signed may be issued with an after school detention.

Thank you for your support in this matter

Mr P Scollard
Assistant Principal

The Year of Grace

Pentecost Sunday marks the beginning of the Year of Grace which ends on Pentecost Sunday 2013 but will conclude with a final liturgy on All Saints 2013. The Australian Catholic Bishops have called for this year to enable all, to once again, look at centering their lives in the spiritual presence of God into which we were born by the Holy Spirit on our Baptism. The Bishops have set as the key reflection for the year, “Starting afresh from Christ”. This is a very real aspiration, as it is only through a Christ centred life are we able to become a grace or blessing to others. Christ is love, so starting afresh in our lives from the model of life that Christ gave us, then our lives will be one of love, mercy, justice, compassion, understanding and holiness. If you would like to find out more about the Year of Grace and to connect with the ideas and events of this year you can access information on www.yearofgrace.catholic.org.au

Prayer

Composed by the National Planning Team and endorsed by the Bishop’s Working Party, the following is the official prayer for A Year of Grace.

Gracious God,
You have blessed this ancient land
with many gifts, especially its people.
We thank you for the Year of Grace,
a time to start afresh from Christ.

You invite us to contemplate the face of Jesus your Son,
that we may experience a new wave of grace,
and that the light of Christ may burn more brightly in our lives.

Attune our hearts and minds
to the presence of your Holy Spirit,
that our Church may be transformed,
our relationships be healed,
and our nation grow in compassion and justice.

With the intercession of St Mary MacKillop,
who showed us new ways of living the Gospel,
we make our prayer
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Mr P Kingsman, RE Coordinator
Parent’s Corner

Six Strategies to Build Self-Esteem
The following article was posted on the Generation Next Blog by Collette Smart. It speaks about developing confidence in children. This means helping children to have a deep-seated belief in their abilities and qualities to do their best. It doesn’t mean they’re the better than everyone else but they are willing to work to achieve their goals and keep trying until they succeed. The article refers to this as self-efficacy. Your children need you to help them to develop self-efficacy. One of the key ways to do this is to encourage your children to involve themselves in the many, varied activities we have at Good Samaritan College. There are so many ways that your children can develop their skills by participating in the life of the College. Please ask your children about their participation in debating, public speaking, fund-raising, sport, music, dance and drama. The more your children are involved in school life the more likely they are to succeed academically. The article follows on.

Children and ‘self-esteem’ is heard regularly in the media, however self-efficacy is the term used in psychology and refers to a person’s belief in his/her own competence. It has nothing to do with being boastful or proud, rather having a healthy view of one’s own characteristics or abilities and what one can offer the world.

Children’s sense of self is still forming, but one good reason for encouraging development of self-efficacy would be to grow children that end up as resilient teens and adults.

We are more aware that by actively building self-efficacy, we can assist our children to develop a barrier against issues such as teenage depression, eating disorders and of course social skills difficulties.

How do we know if our children think poorly of themselves? Watch for:

- Acting out or disruptive behaviours (negative attention still acts as a reinforcement for being noticed)
- Internalising behaviors (a child becomes more quiet, contemplative or self-focused than usual)
- Struggling with friendships and social skills
- Always putting themselves down
- Refusal to try new things for fear of failure or looking silly

What can we do to encourage development of self-efficacy?

- Provide many opportunities to discover capabilities by enrolling in sports and activities. (gentle pressure may sometimes be necessary, for uncertain children)
- Encourage children to make decisions & seek alternatives (don’t always give the answers)

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 8  William Luu
Year 10 Anthony Bebawi
Year 11 George Dagher
Year 12 Georgina Kaka
2012 College Athletics Carnival
World Youth Day is one of the biggest international celebrations in the world. Initiated by the late Pope John Paul II who saw it as a way to reach out to the next generation of Catholics, to demonstrate confidence in them, to rejuvenate the Church and to ensure that the core teachings of Christ are shared and lived.

In 2013, World Youth Day will be hosted by Rio de Janeiro on July 28 with a celebrated Mass with Pope Benedict XVI. Prior the World Youth Day week our student and teacher pilgrims will be participating in active mission work through countries such as Mexico, Peru and Brazil.

Students in Year 9 and 10 (2012) at Good Samaritan Catholic College are being given the opportunity to participate in World Youth Day Rio next year. For more information please contact Miss Welsh e.welsh@gscchinchinbrook.catholic.edu.au

We are looking forward to this amazing experience. Christ awaits with open arms...get your interest form in NOW!

Year 8 De Paul Pancake Breakfast – Winter Appeal Launch

On Tuesday 29th May, 8 De Paul hosted a Pancake Breakfast to launch the St Vincent De Paul Society Winter Appeal. The Winter Appeal supports people suffering from the debilitating effects of poverty. Many students and teachers joined in the yummy breakfast to support the cause, purchasing pancakes with maple syrup. The breakfast was a great success with $95.00 raised, as well as awareness for the campaign. Many thanks go to the students of 8 De Paul for their help and support with this event.

De Paul house is also collecting warm blankets and clothing such as jumpers, jackets, tracksuits, scarves and beanies. These items can be deposited in the St Vincent De Paul deposit bins located around the school. Students are asked to support this worthy cause and assist those less fortunate than ourselves.

Miss Romolo and Mr Dominish
**Year 8 Music Incursion**

On the 22nd of May, all of Year 8 had the opportunity to participate in a Music Incursion, which was just phenomenal and we are all so thankful to our teachers for putting this together. The Incursion was performed by Terry and Gillian who are the dynamic duo ‘Sounds like Rock’. The performance was set up for the topic Rock to Pop in year 8 music. It was so amazing to see all of the major decades of rock, 50’s, 60’s, 70’s and even some 80’s music, all represented in a small but amazing hour with Terry and Gillian. Being able to sing along and have so much fun while still learning about how you can clearly identify the different decades by certain sounds was the best part of it. We played song games involving songs from current and past commercials. Overall, the combination of singing, dancing, comedy and learning put a huge smile on our faces and gave us a better insight to rock music.

*By Tayla McPherson and Karl Ambosta*

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**Gifted Education Excursion**

On Monday 14th May, Melanie Thomas, Juan Montoya, Khatelynne Tablante and Philip Nguyen of Year 11 all attended a Gifted Education excursion. This outing gave these students the opportunity to explore philosophical questions. Good Samaritan Catholic College has made it a priority to ensure that our highly capable and gifted students are provided with opportunities to develop their talents and gifts. This excursion was one of those opportunities. This is what our students had to say about the day.

Waking up early on the freezing cold Monday morning, we met up on the school grounds eagerly awaiting the arrival of the car, driven by Mr Bradbury, which would take us to Ascham school in Edgecliff. And we waited, and waited. There was definitely no shortage on patience among our group. Finally, as we had begun to lose all hope, from around the corner came the car, and we were able to begin our journey.

Our excitement for the day increased as we entered Ascham College along with several other schools. The college greatly exceeded our expectations in relation to its surroundings and facilities.

We began the day with a lecture on time that encouraged students to question the progression of, as well as the very existence of time. This was followed by another presentation challenging our perception of consciousness with the question, “does a snail have consciousness?”. The middle session was focused on increasing motivation and building self-esteem whilst the final session was a discussion and presentation on sexuality including social views of the past and the portrayal of sexuality in the media.

We would all like to say thank you to Mr Bradbury for taking us to and from the program, with a great sense of enthusiasm as a guide and teacher throughout the day and for sharing this memorable and insightful experience with us.

*Melanie Thomas, Juan Montoya, Khatelynne Tablante and Philip Nguyen*

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**College Newsletter emailed!!**

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/](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@gscchinchinbrook.catholic.edu.au

**Subject:** Email newsletter

Please ensure you list ALL students names and year/pastoral class in your email back to us.
**GOOD SAMARITAN CATHOLIC COLLEGE**  
HINCHINBROOK  
401 Hoxton Park Road, Hinchinbrook NSW 2168  
PO Box 444, Hoxton Park NSW 2171  
Phone: (02) 9825 9955 • Fax: (02) 9825 9966  
Email: admin@gschinchinbrook.catholic.edu.au

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- **Tuesday 5th June**  
  Year 7 Vaccinations
- **Wednesday 6th June**  
  CaSPA whole cast regional rehearsal
- **Friday 8th June**  
  STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY - PUPIL FREE DAY
- **Monday 11th June**  
  QUEENS BIRTHDAY HOLIDAY

**COLLEGE UNIFORM NEWS**

**COLLEGE UNIFORM SHOP OPENING HOURS**

*Mon to Thurs 7.30am - 8.20am CLOSED ON FRIDAYS*

*Also open 5th June and 19th June*

*12 noon to 3.45pm*

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**SPORT UNIFORM NEWS**

*On Campus Sport Uniform pickups and measurements fortnightly Term 2 10am - 4pm*

*Wednesday 13th & 27th June*

**KIDS HELP LINE**  
1800 551800
We care and we listen—anytime and for any reason

**PARENT LINE**  
132055 or 1300 301300  
Confidential Help 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

**QUOTA STUDENT OF THE YEAR**

On Wednesday 16th May Sarah Santangelo and Konrad Ryzak represented the college in the Quota International Student of the Year Quest. This is a competition that involves students across the Liverpool area who are selected on the basis of their leadership, academic, cultural and sporting achievements. Usually each school is allowed to enter one student but this year Good Samaritan was given the opportunity to send two students into this competition. During the afternoon both students were interviewed by a panel of judges who inquired about their school and extra curricular achievements, and asked them questions to test their knowledge and understanding of Australian politics, sport and culture.

The evening session was open to the public and involved each student delivering a four minute prepared speech and a one minute adlib speech. It was during the adlib section that both Sarah and Konrad particularly excelled as a result of their extensive experience in public speaking and debating. With topics pulled out of a box both students were challenged to speak just seconds after receiving the topic. Konrad picked out the topic ‘paper’ and proceeded to speak about the history of paper and discussed the idea that with new electronic devices such as iPads and Kindles that the value of physical books could soon be lost to society. Sarah had the topic cars and used this topic to construct a speech on the evolution of technology.

At the end of the night the panel of judges exchanged marks for each students based on both the interview and the speeches. The panel deliberated for a considerable time eventually revealing that this was because they were debating the idea of awarding two students first place. This was not allowed according to the rules of the competition so in the end Good Samaritan’s Sarah Santangelo was awarded runner-up in the competition. This was a fantastic achievement and demonstrates Sarah’s great leadership potential.

Mr M Bradbury, Public Speaking & Debating Coordinator