Dear parents and caregivers

Welcome to what promises to be an exciting year of education at Samaritan College in 2009. Upon reflecting on 2008 which was indeed a year of significant change, we anticipate a more settled year, where changes will be part of review as we fine tune procedures and events, and continue to map and redevelop curriculum across the College.

An important aspect of 2009 will be the renewal of the School Development Plan, which is essentially a five year plan that will inform development towards the ideal of “One College – One Site”. In Term 1 we will be calling for expressions of interest for parents, students and staff to be a part of the planning committee. There will also be surveys distributed to the entire Samaritan community for everyone to share their dream for our children’s schooling.

Last Thursday morning, all staff met for a morning liturgy with goal setting as a focus. Using the International Year of Astronomy as the theme, staff reflected upon how we bring light to people in our lives and how we see stars in each individual. Below is an excerpt from a staff member’s reflection.

These words of love and wisdom highlight how important the vocation of teaching is viewed by our staff and how the individual is recognised and cared for.

‘I like to think of my special group of children as stars, each in their own right. Hanging from my classroom ceiling we have a large, brightly coloured, 3D star, constantly reminding us that we are all stars, “superstars”. There are those stars who: are a source of joy; try my patience; need constant praise and encouragement; need to be reminded about boundaries; provide challenges every single day; or simply who need lots of TLC.

In my classroom I see a galaxy of stars: the constant stars: who are always doing their best the dimmer stars - the ones who find it hard to shine in the group the stars which may have clouds of doubt, uncertainty, insecurity, low self esteem, covering them, not letting their light shine through the bright stars: who shine constantly in everything they do the comets: who might only shine rarely and briefly the distant stars: these remain aloof making it difficult to unlock their light and to help them shine the falling stars: some fall more often than others the milky way stars: all part of a large group working and co-operating together The list could go on and on. The challenge for me is to first accept that each star is different and then encourage each star to shine to his/her best potential.’

We look forward to sharing a productive and positive year of learning for life with you and your children as we nurture their ability to discover their light and self worth.

Term 1 Week 1 January 29, 2009

COMING EVENTS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2
• Parent Community Meeting, 7.30pm at STC

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3
• SJC Parent/Teacher Evening, 7.30pm

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6
• Opening College Mass - SJC Oval

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9
• STC & OLHCC Parent Information Evening

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10
• Year 11 Leadership Evening

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12
• OLHCC Year 5/6 Baker and Year 5/6 Pilkington
• Board Meeting 7.30pm at SJC

FEBRUARY 17-18
• Year 9 Gold camp

FEBRUARY 19-20
• Year 9 Blue camp

FEBRUARY 16-27
• OLHCC Swimming

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20
• SJC Sports Day

TERISSA SHEPHERD
CHRIS SLOAN
CO-PRINCIPALS

Please note:
Our Lady Help of Christians Campus
Ph: (08) 8649 2077
Fax: (08) 8649 1911

PO Box 351, Whyalla, SA 5600
info@samaritan.catholic.edu.au
www.samaritan.catholic.edu.au
St Teresa’s Campus
Telephone (08) 8645 8381
Facsimile (08) 8645 1129
Our Lady Help of Christians Campus
Telephone (08) 8645 2077
Facsimile (08) 8645 1911
Saint John’s Campus
Telephone (08) 8645 8568
Facsimile (08) 8645 8186
**PARISH NEWS**

Welcome to 2009. We hope that all have had a restful holiday and ready for what this year will bring.

Firstly, a word of thanks to Fr John and Fr Medard as they leave us this week. Fr John returns to his parish of Streaky Bay and Ceduna, and Fr Medard to Renmark. We thank them both for their priestly witness and ministry and also their support of Fr Tony and the Parish team.

Secondly, we welcome Fr Jim Monaghan as the Parish Priest of Whyalla and Fr Ano Vermeeren as Assistant Priest. We pray God’s blessings on them and ask for the Spirit’s guidance as they lead us forward.

Sister Cheryle and I thank you for your support and encouragement during the past two years.

May God bless us all as we move into this year of Grace.

Sr Robyn Brady
ON BEHALF OF THE PARISH TEAM

**WEEKEND MASS TIMES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>St Teresa’s Church</th>
<th>Our Lady Help of Christians Church</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 7.00pm</td>
<td>Sunday 10.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 8.30am</td>
<td>Sunday 5.30pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**UNIFORM NEWS**

Thank you to our support staff who have worked tirelessly in Office Week to outfit students in their new uniforms. The group of new Year 8s looked fresh and very smart, with the 9-12 student cohort admiring their appearance. Whilst we have had the occasional hiccup with sizing and the late arrival of socks, on the whole, the transition has been excellent. The sport socks arrived today, and are now available. We are hoping that the correct sport shorts will arrive in the coming weeks. We will continue to provide updates as new sizes and winter stock arrives.

**HOT WEATHER**

With the first day of school being the hottest day recorded in 70 years the facilities fell short of coping with the heat, even with new split systems struggling to cool rooms.

Catholic Education policy is to continue to run classes as all areas are air-conditioned and we do not engage in sending students home in the hottest part of the day. However, parents can exercise discretion in whether or not you wish to send your child to school.

Following yesterday, we have looked at some areas which are not functioning well at all and have shut down some rooms, moving Year 8 students to the Library and Computing Rooms. Outdoor activity is limited and rooms are open at break times, and we are encouraging fluid intake throughout the day.

We will continue to monitor comfort levels during this time.

We have decided to offer a 2.30pm dismissal time (until otherwise notified next week) for secondary students beginning tomorrow. As childcare can be a concern for primary students normal dismissal time will remain, but parents can pick up their children at lunchtime if they feel it is necessary, however, they will need to sign out at reception.

**RELIGIOUS DIMENSION**

As we rejoice in a new school year and all the hope and promise it holds, we pause to give thanks for the land upon which we tread.

May we leave footprints that are positive and lead the way to a brighter tomorrow.

_Dear God,_

_Thousands of years ago,_

_you created this land Australia._

_Thank you for such a special gift._

_Keep this land Australia safe and peaceful,_

_help us all to care for this land Australia,_

_to be kind to all who live in this land Australia,_

_and to welcome those who come from other countries to make their home in this land Australia._

_Please, God, keep this land Australia a good and beautiful land for all to love and enjoy._

_Amen_

Australian Day Prayer - www.catholicweekly.com.au

**REC – SJC**

Angela Rogers

**CO-PRINCIPALS**

Terissa Shepherd  Chris Sloan


We welcome new staff to the College this year, with Peter Usher and Kimberley Storr at St Teresa’s Campus. Joshua Boden, Rachel Gould, Alexandra Pfeiffer and Matthew Quist join us at Saint John’s Campus. We also welcome Estelle Geldenhaus as a permanent teacher at Saint John’s Campus and welcome back Lisa Morton to the Learning Support Unit.

**MARKETING NEWS**

It is with great sadness that we remember the Quinn family, with the anniversary of the passing of Mitchell at this time last year. Our prayers and thoughts are with Mandy, Brian, Joshua and Tom at this significant time.

Our hearts are also with the extended family and friends of Jan Schubert, who have been part of the College community for many years. Our prayers are with Helen Holland and her family with the loss of her mother. We also lend our support to families who have suffered hardship during the break time. Should we need to be made aware of any concerns that might affect your child’s return to school, please let Campus Leaders or ourselves know.

Congratulations to Jo Stephenson on her marriage to Chris Archibelli and to Sonya Melville who married Jayd Roberts in the holidays.

Maresa and John Lyons have discovered the wonderful mystery of parenting with the birth of Imogen Bethany in the last weeks of school in 2008. With further good news in our midst, Katrina and Sean Kelly are expecting a baby in Term 2. Mrs Kelly will be working throughout Term 1. Kay and Ryan Baker are also expecting their second child later this year. We also congratulate Sarah and

**CO-PRINCIPALS**

Terissa Shepherd  Chris Sloan
Welcome back to school for another year. I am sure we are all well rested and ready for the new challenges and opportunities this year will present.

This term will be very busy beginning with the opening Mass next week. Parent Information Evening, Swimming lessons and the Year 7 camp will be later this term. More information will follow in the coming weeks.

Please make yourself known to your child’s teacher as soon as possible to open good lines of communication. We encourage parent participation and interest in our community.

Lou Whitehouse       Bernie Meixner
CAMPUS COORDINATORS
Welcome to 2009 at Our Lady Help of Christians Campus. I trust that your holidays were both enjoyable and a relaxing time with your family and friends. A very special welcome to all those families who are new to our community!

LITURGY OF THE WORD

For 2009 Liturgies of the Word in the Church will commence in Week 3. We as a staff have decided to change the Liturgy time from Wednesdays at 2.00pm to Thursdays at 2.45pm due to no longer having the early dismissal.

This enables teachers to pack up classes and end the day with prayer in the form of Liturgy with no interruptions in teaching time.

Year 5/6 Baker and Year 5/6 Pilkington have the pleasure of presenting the first Liturgy of the Word for 2009. You are most welcome to attend on Thursday, February at 2.45pm in the Church.

God Bless

Eleni Vailas
CAMPUS COORDINATOR

CAR PARK SAFETY

A REMINDER: to parents dropping off and picking up students in the rear car park, to be aware of students walking down the strip between the car parks especially when reversing.

Students are not to be dropped off or picked up by car from the Front Office Car Park before and after school for safety reasons.

However you are able to use this car park if you need to come into the Front Office during school hours.

Please be aware that the Dentist Car Park in Toal Street is definitely not to be used for parking as this is a private car park and offenders can be fined. Also the Lane way is a ‘No Parking Zone’.

Thank you for keeping our students safe.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CAMPUS NEWS

ABILITY GROUPING IN MATHEMATICS & SCIENCE

Last year the Teaching Mathematics and Science faculties met with leadership to discuss the processes and outcomes of the principle of streaming. In recent years there has been much research and debate around the pros and cons of ability grouping students. Research data now points very favourably towards mixed ability grouping, with evidence revealing very little significance in outcomes through streaming. Analysis of the National Numeracy Review Report 2008 has informed our decision making to move away from ability grouping. One of the problems associated with students being grouped too early is that it isolates them from preparation for the more pure mathematics subjects at Year 11 and 12. Other concerns point to development of students’ esteem and personal beliefs about their ability based on where they are placed.

As we retain result reports for many years, we will be able to monitor the effects of the change of policy and review our decision making over time. If any parents have queries, please do not hesitate to contact any one of the secondary leadership team.

CHANGES TO TIMETABLEING

In preparation for the advent of the New SACE and to consider ways in which we can accommodate the changed lives of senior students, we have reviewed the effects of a standard seven lesson timetable. The outcome is a deliberate blocking of subjects, so that a Year 11 or 12 student will only experience as many as, or less than, three subjects a day. The school day has been arranged so that the recess break occurs earlier (useful in this hot weather) and in the long term it enables hungry mouths to be satisfied earlier. The bulk of lessons are now between recess and lunch, with a 2, 3, 2 pattern. The blocking only affects the senior students.

YEAR 12 STUDY LESSONS

Also in keeping with accommodating the maturing students and their complex needs, we will trial the utilisation of the morning and afternoon study periods with students working at home. They may still come to school to work quietly in the library, but the expectation is that they are working. A letter will be sent home this week to all Year 12 parents. The “stay at home and study trial” will begin this Friday.

Students must not contravene the school values and expectations in anyway, whilst they are off site. The expectation is that they are working. We will monitor students’ arrivals, academic progress and any reports from the public about student conduct during the trial period, thus urge students to embrace this opportunity to act responsibly as young adult learners.

Terissa Shepherd
CO-PRINCIPAL

SAINT JOHN’S CAMPUS NEWS

ADMINISTRATION MATTERS

Welcome back!

I can’t recall such a hot start to the school year! We have advised students to adopt a common sense approach to the heat by avoiding direct exposure to the sun and also drinking lots of water. For our part, the oval will be closed during lunch times and students will have access to air-conditioned rooms during extended break times. Students often ask “why can’t we go home”? This, on the surface, sounds like a reasonable request but logic dictates that sending students home during the hottest part of the day would not be good policy.

There are a number of forms and advisory letters which are sent home in the first week and I’m sure many of you might have a sizeable stack already! Please
ensure all forms are returned by the due date. Parents will appreciate that the clerical administration that accompanies the return of these forms is immense and thus your assistance is greatly appreciated. Should forms not have an ‘RSVP’ date it would be safe to assume ‘ASAP’ is the over-arching preference!

All students have been issued with a 2009 College Diary. The diary contains important information such as the new Orders of Time, College Policies, general rules understandings etc. Please take the time to read our new-look diary: it is the first and most important means of communication between families and the College.

On behalf of the College community I would like to welcome all Year 8s to the Saint John’s Campus; both existing students and those new to Samaritan College. We also extend a welcome to the following new students starting in other year levels.

**Year 9 Blue**
- Malika Carter
- Keenan Hancock

**Year 10 Blue**
- Michael Scattini
- Tyler Stringer

**Year 10 Gold**
- Katherine Munro

**Year 11 Blue**
- Taylor Hancock
- Amelia Marshall

**Year 11 Gold**
- Jordan Lawson

**Year 11 Red**
- Jonathan Munro

**Year 11 White**
- Alex Calleja

**Year 12 Red**
- Trent Joyce

Finally, attached with this Newsletter is the new tri-campus calendar. This handy reference should assist parents (and staff!) in navigating the maze of activities planned throughout the year. One calendar is issued per family.

Wishing you all a fantastic start to the year – stay cool.

Brett Czechowski
SECONDARY CAMPUS LEADER

**YEAR 9 CAMPS**

Early in Term 1 each of the Year 9 Caregroups will be going on an overnight camp to the Aquatics Centre at Port Augusta. Students are to wear their aquatics gear up to Port Augusta and will need to have their PE uniform to wear back to school on the second day of their camp.

- Week 4 camps
  - 9 Gold: Tuesday-Wednesday, February 17-18
  - 9 Blue: Wednesday-Thursday, February 19-20

- Week 6 camps
  - 9 Red: Monday-Tuesday, March 2-3
  - 9 White: Tuesday-Wednesday, March 3-4

More information will be forwarded to you as the time draws nearer.

Christine Duffield
YEAR 9 COORDINATOR

---

**CANTEEN ROSTERS**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2 – FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6**

**ST TERESA’S CAMPUS**

- **Mon** Marina Schwerdt
- **Tue** Kerry & Sahe Azzopardi
- **Wed** Annette Cameron
- **Thur** Justine Chalmers, Holly Phillis
- **Fri** Mass Day - no lunches

Yoghurt, frogs and baby ice-blocks are no longer available.

Annette Cameron
CANTEEN MANAGER

**OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CAMPUS**

- **Mon** Antonetta Rogers, Diana Moia
- **Tue** Yvette Balkwill
- **Wed** Help Needed
- **Thur** Help Needed
- **Fri** Mass Day - no lunches

There will be no lunch orders on Friday, however the canteen will be open for ice-blocks and drinks etc.

Rose Cassar
CANTEEN MANAGER

**SAINT JOHN’S CAMPUS**

- **Mon** Donna Ward, Bev Carlson
- **Tue** Paulinie Higgins, Julie Drake
- **Wed** Vicki Castle, Tina Fernandez
- **Thur** Liz Dennis, Diana Jeffrey
- **Fri** Lorraine Ackling, Caroline Foran

Marg Coad
CANTEEN MANAGER
2009 Junior Sprints

Want to be a part of the biggest Come N Try Swimming competition in South Australia???

Area Finals are being held right across the State at a pool near you from the 13th to 15th of February 2009

All Events are 50m in length.

All swimmers aged 13 & under are welcome to attend. ENTRY TO THE COMPETITION IS FREE (some pools may charge an entry fee). You do not have to be a member of a swimming club to participate.

To find out how to enter visit www.swimmingsa.org.au to see the venue nearest to you!