Dear parents and caregivers

PARTNERSHIP EVENTS THIS WEEK

It has been a week of exploring the very essential and uplifting element of partnership which we have highlighted as crucial to ongoing success of students. Thank you to the parents and caregivers who have attended the various evenings we have held to enable staff and families to meet and greet.

It has also been a pleasure to receive nominations for Board and Parent Community positions. We strongly encourage you to attend the Annual General Meeting of Samaritan College, held in two week’s time on February 26, 7.30pm in the Lecture Theatres at SJC.

This week at our parent evenings we have spoken about the Samaritan Vision and Motto. The lesson from the Samaritans was to give without counting the cost, to give despite cultural, religious and social barriers and to reach out even through our own brokenness. ‘Reaching out’ to others has been so generously and spontaneously offered by staff and students this week in their desire to fundraise for the victims of the bushfire tragedy in Victoria. We have been truly inspired by the desire to act through creating a bushfire relief fund – an indication of the holy spirit being truly alive in our community.

SPIRIT OF OUR CHILDREN – SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY

Throughout the Opening Mass held yesterday, we were moved by that spirit yet again, where students engaged so openly and warmly with one another and celebrated together as one community. We are thankful for the Religious Education team who developed the Mass and the support of staff providing music, games for the classes and general organisation. Thank you also to all the families who joined us and to the students for your reverence and positive involvement.

AVENUES FOR ADVICE

Please take the time to read the various forms of information in the students’ diaries. A page of particular importance is “Avenues for Advice”. This provides a general guide of whom to approach should you have concerns or something to share regarding your children.

It has always been our endeavour to make ourselves available to parents to discuss concerns as we want to work with you in the best interests of your child. At this time of year, with many families in the position of having to enrol for the first time and purchase new uniforms, we are aware that finances can be stretched. It is the premise of Catholic education in South Australia that no child should be denied a Catholic education due to financial hardship. Please come and discuss with us in confidence, any issues you may have and we will work together to find solutions.

We wish you all a good week.

TERISSA SHEPHERD

CHRIS SLOAN

CO-PRINCIPALS
SCHOOL FEES
Accounts for the 2009 tuition fees will be posted this week. We have enclosed another ‘School Fees Policy and Payment Options’ form and request that if you have not already done so, to complete the form and return it to the College as soon as possible. If there is no payment agreement in place the total amount owing needs to be paid within 30 days.

Currently we provide a three tier system of fees which enables families to be billed according to their ability to pay based on their income. We do understand, however, that some families may be encountering difficulties in these economic times, therefore if families wish to discuss their fees please make an appointment with us. We wish to reiterate that fees should not be a barrier to your child’s education at Samaritan College.

SCHOOL CARD remissions must be applied for each year, if you think you may be eligible for assistance and have not applied this year, the forms are available at each campus office and should be completed as soon as possible.

On Wednesday we celebrated the Opening Mass of Samaritan College. This is always a special occasion when we can celebrate our faith and ask the Blessing of God upon the school year.

The last few days we have seen and heard about the devastation of the bush fires in Victoria. Our prayers and thoughts are with these people. I am aware of the generosity of the people of Whyalla and of the students at the College. I am sure that in the coming weeks we will do what we can to help the families affected by the fires.

Next Sunday’s Gospel is about Jesus curing the leper. It enabled him to be restored to his family and friends as well as to health. Each Sunday, like the leper we are healed by the body and blood of Christ to carry our mission amongst our family and friends.

Sr Cheryle Thomson
ON BEHALF OF THE PARISH TEAM

WEAKEND MASS TIMES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>St Teresa’s Church</th>
<th>Our Lady Help of Christians Church</th>
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<td>Saturday 7.00pm</td>
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PARISH NEWs

BUSHFIRE TRAG EDY IN VICTORIA
Our hearts and prayers are opened in compassion to support all those affected by the unfolding tragedy in Victoria, at this devastation of life, property and possessions.

During such a time of tragedy it is just amazing how people gather together to generously support these stricken communities. Please keep in your prayers those who are suffering, particularly those who have lost loved ones, all those assisting in support and especially safety for the firefighters as they continue their ministry of mercy.

God Bless
Eleni Vailas
REC - OLHCC

RELIGIOUS DIMENSION

A PRAYER FOR THE TRAGEDY OF BUSHFIRES

God of mercy and pity,
remember all those suffering from the effects of bushfires.

Especially we ask for those who have lost loved ones, homes, possessions.
Help us to minister to their needs,
and to be sensitive to all who have suffered loss.

Heal the distressed, the broken-hearted and the wounded:
comfort and sustain them in their need.
Give them wise and faithful friends,
and courage for the road ahead.

Help the firefighters to bring the fires under control
and protect them at all times.
Sustain them, the support workers and all volunteers,
in their myriad tasks, sacrifices and generosity.
Watch over all those involved
and give them the assurance of your presence.

These things we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

SCHOOL FEES

If you have any queries regarding school fees or school card please contact Cheryl Murfitt at OLHC Campus on 8649 2077 or make an appointment to speak with the Co-Principals.

Chris Sloan
CO-PRINCIPAL

UNIFORM

After stating the jumpers would not be here until March and fearing an unexpected cold “snap” we are pleased to announce the new jumpers have arrived! Any children who have felt the crisp morning can now feel comfortable. Please drop into the SJC Uniform Shop between 8.30am and 2.00pm, but refrain from recess and lunctimes when it is busy. Jumpers are available at the Front Offices of both primary campuses.

Terissa Shepherd
CO-PRINCIPAL
IS YOUR CHILD AFFECTED BY THE VICTORIAN BUSHFIRES AND THE QUEENSLAND FLOODS?

Please remember that Samaritan College has Student Counsellors available at all three campuses for children who may be affected by current news and events of Victoria and surrounding areas. Please make an appointment through Reception to see either Pamela or Sonya.

The following tips are from Michael Grose.

The Queensland floods and the Victorian bushfires continue to wreak incredible havoc on so many people’s lives and will no doubt leave an indelible imprint on our collective psyches. These two natural disasters will be brought into our living rooms via the media over the coming days and weeks.

As adults we all want our children to live carefree lives and keep them from the pain and even horror of tragedies such as natural disasters. In reality we can’t do this.

So what is a parent, teacher, or other caring adult to do when the natural disasters fill the airwaves and the consciousness of society? Here are some ideas:

1. **Reassure children that they are safe.** The consistency of the images can be frightening for young children who don’t understand the notion of distance and have difficulty distinguishing between reality and fiction. Let them know that while this event is indeed happening it will not affect them directly.

2. **Be available and ‘askable’.** Let kids know that it is okay to talk about the unpleasant events. Listen to what they think and feel. By listening, you can find out if they have misunderstandings, and you can learn more about the support that they need. You do not need to explain more than they are ready to hear, but be willing to answer their questions.

3. **Help children process what they see and hear, particularly through television.** Children are good observers but can be poor interpreters of events that are out of their level of understanding. Sit with them. Ask them questions to ascertain their understanding.

4. **Support children’s concerns for others.** They may have genuine concerns for the suffering that will occur and they may need an outlet for those concerns. It is heart-warming to see this empathy in children for the concerns of others.

5. **Let them explore feelings beyond fear.** Many children may feel sad or even angry with these events so let them express the full range of emotions. They may feel sadder for the loss of wildlife, than for loss of human life, which is impersonal for them.

6. **Help children and young people find a legitimate course of action if they wish.** Action is a great antidote to stress and anxiety so finding simple ways to help, including donating some pocket money can assist kids to cope and teaches them to contribute.

7. **Avoid keeping the television on all the time.** The visual nature of the media means that images are repeated over and over, which can be both distressing to some and desensitizing to others.

8. **Be aware of your own actions.** Children will take their cues from you and if they see you focusing on it in an unhealthy way then they will focus on it too. Let them know that it is happening but it should not dominate their lives.

9. **Take action yourself.** Children who know their parents, teachers, or other significant caregivers are working to make a difference feel hope. They feel safer and more positive about the future. So do something. It will make you feel more hopeful, too. And hope is one of the most valuable gifts we can give children and ourselves.

Children’s worlds can be affected in ways that we can’t even conceive of so adults need to be both sensitive to children’s needs and mindful of what they say and how they act in front of children.

In difficult times, it is worth remembering what adults and children need most are each other.

Michael Grose is one of Australia’s leading parenting educators. For more parenting information and resources visit www.parentingideas.com.au

Sonya Melville
YOUTH WORKER & STUDENT COUNSELLOR

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**PRIMARY CAMPUS NEWS**

**PARENTS AND COLLEGE WORKING TOGETHER IN PARTNERSHIP**

Thank you to our parents, Pastoral Associates, Sister Cheryle and Sister Robyn, and teaching staff from both primary campuses, who attended the evening on last Monday night.

The evening was a very informative one, with input into many aspects of primary education.

It was great to see how everyone mingled for ‘Drinks and Nibbles’ after the formal part of the evening concluded.

**FUNDRAISING FOR THE VICTORIAN BUSHFIRE RELIEF APPEAL**

On Friday, February 13 we will be having a Fundraising Day on both primary campuses, to help the families in Victoria who have been so badly affected by the terrible bushfires.

The students from the both primary campuses may wear **coloured clothes** on this day.

I ask you to be very generous with your donations on Friday. All money donated will be sent to the RED CROSS APPEAL.

Patricia Page
PRIMARY CAMPUS LEADER
MEET YOUR CHILD’S TEACHER

Last Monday night parents were given the opportunity to come along to the Samaritan College Parents in Partnership evening. If you were unable to attend please make the time over the next week or so to introduce yourself to your child’s teacher. Good communication between home and school is beneficial to your child’s learning. Being known to your child’s teacher will open opportunities to become involved in the school community.

Bernie Meixner Eleni Vailas
REC - STC REC - OLHCC

SMARTKIDDIES

As part of computing time, some classes have been accessing an on line Mathematics program called smartkiddies.com.au. This is an interactive program that provides children with practice in many mathematical areas covered in the classroom. There is a section specifically for parents that you may wish to look at.

CAMPUS ASSEMBLY

Mrs Sanders and her R/1 class will hold a Junior Assembly on Friday, February 20. Assembly is at 9.30am on Friday February 20.

Lou Whitehouse
CAMPUS COORDINATOR

WHYALLA JUNIOR HOCKEY

Welcome to 2009. Registration forms will be handed out at both Junior Primary campuses on Friday, February 20 after school. All past and NEW players need to register for 2009.

OLHC CAMPUS
Karen Pudney and Angela Marino will be handing out Registration forms under the veranda near the school playground.

ST TERESA’S CAMPUS
Mr Meixner will be handing out Registration forms at the Front Office.

If you cannot make our campus sign up day don’t worry, the Junior Hockey Committee will be holding their 2009 Registration Day at the Hockey Grounds, corner of Nicolson Ave and Searle Street on Sunday, March 1 at 11.00am till 2.00pm

OLHC Campus Training times Monday 4.00pm – 6.00pm
St Teresa’s Campus Training times Tuesday 4.30pm – 5.30pm
Games Friday night and Saturday morning

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CAMPUS NEWS

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Due to swimming lessons in Weeks 4 and 5 we won’t be having Liturgies during the next fortnight; they will resume again in Week 6.

Rec/Year 1 Hancock and Year 2/3 Gray will be presenting the Liturgy of the Word for Week 6. You are most welcome to attend on Thursday, March 5 at 2.45pm in the Church.

God Bless
Eleni Vailas
CAMPUS COORDINATOR

ST TERESA’S CAMPUS NEWS

MUSIC LESSONS

Chris Barrett is taking bookings for all students wanting to enrol in Guitar and Piano/Keyboard lessons at both primary campuses in 2009.

Interested students are asked to contact the Front Office to be placed on the Enrolment Lists. Alternatively you can contact Chris directly on 0404 681 170 or 8644 0140.

Lessons are at a cost of $150 per term and will commence on the week commencing Monday, February 23.

MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

Made in the image of God is the new Human Sexuality program for South Australian Catholic primary schools. The program replaces Family Life Education which ran in Catholic schools for more than ten years. The program is a celebration of what it is to be human and made in the image and likeness of God. Included with the newsletter this week is an information pamphlet about the program. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the Religious Education Coordinator at your child’s campus.

Bernie Meixner Eleni Vailis
REC - STC REC - OLHCC

OUR Lady Help Of CHRISTIANS CAMPUS NEWS
Preliminary planning is underway for the Year 10 Murray Venture. This year we will be running three ventures, starting with the second week of the holidays and continuing throughout the first two weeks of term. The dates for each trip is outlined below:

April 18 - April 24 Murray Venture
- Mixed boys/girls
  Group 1

April 25 - May 1 Murray Venture
- Girls
  Group 2

May 2 - May 8 Murray Venture
- Boys
  Group 3

More detailed information about the Murray Venture will be forthcoming later in the term.

Trent Keiper
YEAR 10 COORDINATOR

BUSHFIRE APPEAL
Please join in and help raise money for a good cause!

Saint John’s campus are holding a fundraiser to help out those affected by the Victorian bushfire tragedies.

A sausage sizzle will be held on Friday, February 13 at lunch time for all students.

- Sausages $1
- Cans of soft drink $2

Your help would be greatly appreciated.

SRC

CANTENE ROSTERS
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16 – FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20
ST TERESA’S CAMPUS

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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Fiona Moffat</td>
<td>Jean McCarroll</td>
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<td>Tue</td>
<td>Sarah Quirk</td>
<td>Christina Ervine</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
<td>Shae Azzopardi</td>
<td>Grace Hullah</td>
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<td>Thur</td>
<td>Olivia Chinnery</td>
<td>Madison Kersten</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
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Annette Cameron
CANTEEN MANAGER

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CAMPUS
No help is required during Week 4 due to Swimming Lessons.

Rose Cassar
CANTEEN MANAGER

SAINT JOHN’S CAMPUS

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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Bev Smith</td>
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<td>Tue</td>
<td>Allyson Noble</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
<td>Jayne Bryant</td>
<td>Michelle Harman</td>
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<td>Thur</td>
<td>Donna Ward</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
<td>Mark Plunkett</td>
<td>Amelia Cooper</td>
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Marg Coad
CANTEEN MANAGER

SPORTS DAY CAKE STALL
February 20, 2009

Please donate items and offer your assistance in helping on the cake stall.

The students love the home made cakes every year!!

All items do need ingredients listed.

Please tear off the slip below to indicate how you might be able to help.

1. can provide ...........................................

parent of ............................................ in class .............

2. can help on the stall during ..........................

(approx times)

COMMUNITY NEWS

COLES to donate this FRIDAY’s PROFITS to the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund

If you shop at COLES, please wait till Friday 13th to do so, as COLES is donating all its profits from its 750 stores nationally to the Government's Bushfire Appeal in partnership with the Red Cross.

Come on guys, let’s rally together and go shopping this FRIDAY the 13th and help all these people affected by this tragedy!!!
The Samaritan College Restaurant is BACK!

Every fortnight, Thursdays beginning March 5 at 7.00pm
4 course degustation menu

$50.00 all inclusive. Patrons bring their own "refreshments"

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
Please ring Alison Frkic
Ph: 8645 8568

March 19
April 9
May 7
May 21
June 4
June 18