**Dear parents and caregivers**

**GENEROSITY OF SPIRIT**

Last week revealed our motto to be truly alive in our community with the generous and spontaneous fundraising efforts of our students, parents and staff across the College. A coloured clothes day was held at the primary campuses and a mini sports event and sausage sizzle at the secondary campus. The SRC teams staged a successful fundraising event, with everyone digging deep. The fundraising efforts of the senior SRC will continue through to March, with tins placed in significant businesses and an appeal for goods for raffles planned. The students are grateful for the support given thus far, with generous donations from Baker’s Delight, Azzopardi Butchers and Woolworths, which enabled the students to create pure profit towards their appeal. The total funds raised is still climbing with $5600 collected to date.

**PARENT CONSULTATION**

On Tuesday afternoon our newly formed development plan reference group met to discuss the consultation process which will occur this term, in week 7 (March 10). On Tuesday evening, all parents of the College are invited to contribute to the visioning and strategic planning for your child’s schooling into the future. The strategic plan that will be generated next term through this process will form the basis for our capital development plan as we move toward developing infrastructure for Samaritan College.

**ECONOMIC TIMES**

In just six months it seems the world economy has spun on its axis in terms of its far reaching effects on the average citizen. Enclosed in this newsletter is correspondence from Sister Catherine Clark, chairperson for the South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools and Ann Bliss of the Federation of Parent Community. Please be reminded that our strong beliefs within catholic schooling is that no child should be denied a catholic education due to an inability to pay. We encourage any parent to make an appointment with us to discuss your concerns in the strictest confidence.

**COMING EVENTS**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20**
- STC R/1 Sanders Junior Assembly at 9.30am
- SJC Sports Day

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24**
- Year 10 Retreat

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25**
- STC Ash Wednesday liturgy 9.30am in the Library

**FEBRUARY 23-25**
- OLHCC Year 7 Aquatics Camp

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26**
- Samaritan College AGM, 7.30pm in SJC Lecture Theatres
- Clean Up Australia Day
- SJC Spencer Gulf
- STC SRC will be inducted at assembly, 9.30am

**MONDAY, MARCH 2**
- Parent Community Meeting 7.30pm at SJC

**THURSDAY, MARCH 5**
- OLHCC Rec/Year 1 Hancock and Year 2/3 Gray Liturgy of the Word, 2.45pm in the Church
**Parish News**

Next Wednesday, February 25 is Ash Wednesday. This marks the beginning of our Lenten journey up to the celebrations of Holy Week and Easter. It is a period of five Sundays concluding with Palm Sunday on April 5.

Our Catholic tradition teaches that the way to live out these days is to make ourselves do something different to prepare our minds and hearts to enter into the Passion, death and Resurrection of Jesus. There are three activities that will assist us to do this – fasting, prayer and penance.

Fasting is often seen as a negative thing when in fact its purpose is to strengthen one’s ‘spiritual muscle’ and align the whole person with positive values. When you fast, bring to mind and prayer all the positive reasons for your fast – for people who do not have what we are gifted with, in solidarity with Jesus.

May each of us think of some aspect of our spiritual lives that would benefit from the act of fasting.

Have a great day

God Bless

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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 7.00pm</td>
<td>Sunday 10.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 8.30am</td>
<td>Sunday 5.30pm</td>
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**Project Compassion**

During Lent we spend time in prayer, do something extra to help others and give to the needy. These activities help us to prepare for the coming of Jesus at Easter. In this spirit of giving the three campuses will be involved in Project Compassion. Project Compassion is a program run by Caritas Australia to raise awareness and funds for communities around the world who need assistance in meeting basic human needs.

The program is about increasing development in the most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities in the world.

Project Compassion collection boxes will be placed in each campus for our community to donate to this worthy cause. Please give generously.

Bernie Meixner

REC - STC

**Computer Corner**

**Is your child safe on the Internet?**

Early in the year we focus on internet safety as many children access the internet both at home and school. At Samaritan College there is a filter system to stop any unsuitable sites from being viewed. What about at home?

Without supervision students can be prey to many dangers on the net including hackers, scams and bad people. Parents can get good advice on children's safe use of the internet by going to Net Alert: www.netalert.gov.au - under the advice tab is a Parent’s Guide to Internet Safety.

Some good sites for students to learn internet safety are:

Early Years: Netty’s World

www.nettysworld.com.au

Primary Years: I keep safe kids,

www.ikeepsafe.org

Safe surfing with Doug

www.disney.co.uk

Middle Years: Cyberquoll,

www.cyberquoll.com.au

Netsmartz,

www.netsmartz.org

Jenny Kondylas

**NewsLetter on the Web**

Due to the hardworking efforts of our IT team it is now possible to view the newsletter online at www.samaritan.catholic.edu.au. Click to enter the site then select the newsletter tab on the left hand side. You may also view earlier newsletters, simply click on the date you would like to view. This will be updated each Thursday afternoon.

Lorraine Ackling

**Publications Officer**

With Ash Wednesday fast approaching I cannot help but think of the Victorian bushfires and the ashes that remain where once life stood. On Ash Wednesday we are marked with ashes to remind us to turn our hearts back to God.

For us the ashes are live-giving, a positive turn in the path that is life, reminding us to choose wisely where we tread.

For those affected in Victoria the ashes are a reminder of destruction, devastation and death. Life is fleeting. As our hearts ache with the agony we see and hear about, as tears fall for those whose life has been prematurely extinguished, may we learn to tread the path with our friends and family, to journey together, to appreciate the love and loved ones who walk beside us as we work for a better tomorrow.

Let us not simply wander along hoping to contribute to a brighter dawn. Let us leave no rock unturned as we search for the tools we need to make it a global reality.

O Jesus, you place on my forehead

the sign of your saving Cross;

"Turn from sin and be faithful to the gospel."

How can I turn from sin unless I turn to you?

Let this holy season be a time of grace for all the world.

Angela Rogers

**REC - SJC**

**College News**
SAMARITAN COLLEGE 2009 PANTOMIME

In another of a long series of ‘firsts’ with regard to cross-campus participation, Samaritan College will be presenting Captain Hook’s Revenge, a satirical and humorous take on the classic tale of Peter Pan. Invitations for students to express interest in and audition for the pantomime will soon be announced at individual campuses.

Auditions will be taking place during the coming weeks.

- Week 5 STC
- Week 6 SJC
- Week 7 OLHCC

In the meantime, general inquiries can be addressed to either Winnie Fitzgerald (STC), Thomas Martin (SJC), or Melinda Gray (OLHCC).

Thomas Martin
PRODUCER

PRIMARY CAMPUS NEWS

Next week begins the series of camps for Year 5 and Year 7 students from both campuses.

During Term 1 the Year 7 students from OLHCC will be attending the Aquatic Camp at Port Vincent from Monday, February 23 to Wednesday, February 25.

From Monday, March 30 until Wednesday, April 1 the Year 7 students from STC will be attending the Aquatic Camp at Port Vincent.

In Term 3 the STC Year 5 students will attend a camp at Pichi Richi from Wednesday, September 2 until Friday, September 4.

The OLHCC Year 5 students will be travelling to ERRAPPA, during the week from Monday, March 2 until Friday, March 6 in Term 1, in two groups.

Attending camps helps the students to become more independent and to build relationships with each other, their teachers, the instructors and other adults.

Patricia Page
PRIMARY CAMPUS LEADER

ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGIES

The Year 6/7 classes will hold a liturgy to mark the beginning of Lent next Wednesday. Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and children will receive ashes as a sign to ‘Turn back to God’ in this period of preparation for Easter. The Liturgies will be held at 9.30am and 10.30am in the campus library.

STUDENT COUNCIL INDUCTION

The 2009 Student council for St Teresa’s Campus will be inducted on Friday, February 27. The Student Councillors will receive their badges at the 9.30am assembly on this day.

Parents are most welcome to attend.

ST TERESA’S CAMPUS NEWS

CAMPUS ASSEMBLY

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

Lou Whitehouse and Bernie Meixner
CAMPUS COORDINATORS

SAMARITAN COLLEGE OSHC

Just a reminder to parents that we are open for before & after school care for your child.

Times: Mornings: 7.00am – 8.30am
Afternoons: 3.15pm – 6.10pm

For more information, please call Mary Ann Milne on 86493530 or 0427712260.

Thank you

Mary Ann Milne

PRIMARY CAMPUS SPORTS DAY

The Sports Day for the primary campuses this year will be combined. This is another step towards creating our identity as one College. The Sports Day Committee is working hard to combine the communities from both sites and create a day which celebrates participation, fun and fitness. Sports Day will be on Friday, May 8 at Jubilee Park. More information about the day will come in the following weeks.

SPORTS DAY COMMITTEE

SAMARITAN COLLEGE OSHC

Thank you

Mary Ann Milne
FOYER DISPLAY
This fortnight we have a lovely foyer display presented by the Italian teacher, Ms Calder, featuring prayers of thanks about summer time from each class R-7 across the campus. Come along and read about these prayers!

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY
Our students will be participating in Clean Up Australia Day for Schools on Friday, February 27. We will be cleaning up the school property and the outside boundary which will include the Convent, car park, vacant scrub land and along the fence line, both inside and outside the perimeter. Students are encouraged to bring gloves so that rubbish can be handled safely.

The clean up will take place straight after Recess unless the forecast temperature is 35 degrees, in which case it will take place at 9am.

God Bless
Eleni Vailas
CAMPUS COORDINATOR

SAINT JOHN’S CAMPUS NEWS

SPORTS DAY
This Friday we celebrate our annual Sports Day. There is a great deal of excitement here on campus as history will be written: Who will win the first Samaritan College Sports Day? Rice (Green)? Benedict (Yellow)? MacKillop (Blue)? Houses have been completely ‘reconstructed’ this year to ensure parity across a variety of criterion. The traditional March Past will begin around 8.45am with competition set to commence at 9.15am. Please note that students are dismissed at 2.30pm, following presentations. Parents are welcome to join in the fun though for OH&S reasons are asked to sign in at the Front Office in the usual way.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY
On Friday February 27, Saint John’s Campus students will participate in the National Schools Clean Up Australia Day. Between 8.55am and 9.30am our students will be dispersed to various locations near the College. Under the supervision of their caregroup teachers, the students, using protective gloves, will clean up the school’s surrounding environment. If you would like to help your child’s caregroup clean up, then feel free to join us on the day.

STUDENT ABSENCE
A reminder is extended to all families that when your child is sick, please contact the campus switchboard in the morning and follow up with a diary note when they return to school. Caregroup teachers will ring home if there has been an unexplained absence for more than 2 consecutive days.

LAPTOP COMPUTERS
With the increased availability of laptop computers to consumers in recent years, there has been a related increase in students wanting to use them at school. Consequently, the College has developed guidelines and conditions that must be agreed upon by the student before they are allowed to use a laptop on campus. As with all technologies, i.e. mobile phones, mp3 players etc, there is a temptation to assume that because we have them that they must make things better. In the case of laptops, however, they can actually hinder the learning of the child and of those children around him/her. The College will only permit the use of the laptop if we feel it will genuinely benefit the student and enhance their learning. Laptop computers are certainly a convenience but they are not an essential requirement of learning. There are a sufficient number of computers available for students to use during the school day (approx 100).

Using a laptop for students with handwriting difficulties does not always mean an improvement in learning as the student may actually type slower than they can write. Another logistical concern is over how to power the laptops. They simply must have a battery supply and every classroom cannot be fitted out with 10-15 extra power points.

Any student wishing to use a laptop in the classroom must obtain an application form from myself and agree to the set conditions. Students currently working with our Adaptive Education team will have their permission arranged by Ms Cook (if applicable).

With thanks,
Brett Czechowski
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL (CAMPUS LEADER)

PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE
In 2009 the Saint John’s Campus library is inviting students in Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 to participate in the Premier’s Reading Challenge. The Challenge aims to increase standards of literacy in South Australian students and involves participants reading 12 books and completing a reading record form between now and the September 4 closing date. Successful participants will be awarded a certificate for one year of participation, a bronze medallion for two years and silver and gold medallions for three and four years of participation in the challenge. The challenge has been extended for continuing students who wish to complete a sixth year and receive their new ‘Legend medal’ followed by a seventh year to earn the ‘Hall of Fame Medal’. Students who wish to enter the challenge for the first time, continue the challenge in 2009 or find out more information about the Premier’s Reading Challenge can do so at the Library circulation desk.

Tanya Ernesti
TEACHER LIBRARIAN
JUNIOR SCIENCE HELP

Science Help for students in Years 8-10 will be held on Wednesday afternoons 3.30-4.30pm in the library. Science Help is an opportunity for students to complete homework and assignments in an environment where a member of the Science Faculty will be on hand to assist with any queries.

Throughout the year students may be asked by their Science teacher to attend a Wednesday session to catch-up on work missed through absence or to assist in understanding the concepts covered in class. If this occurs a letter will be sent home informing caregivers of the details.

Assistance for Stage 1 and 2 Science subjects will be organised by individual teachers.

Denise Rule & Nathan Wohling
SCIENCE COORDINATORS

SPORTS DAY

February 20, 2009.

This is the beginning of something new here at Samaritan College as we begin a new era of Sports Day. The teams are now Benedict (Yellow), Mackillop (Blue) and Rice (Green).

Please remember the sun safe policy. Ensure you slip, slop, slap, seek and slide and rehydrate regularly. Also a friendly reminder from our volunteers at Saint John’s - it is the student’s responsibility to ensure they have all their medication. This includes ventilators for asthma and that they warm up for their events.

Lions have organised a BBQ with egg and bacon rolls available from 8.30am till 10.00am and steak sandwiches with onion available from 10.00 till about 2.00pm. The canteen will be open, but will not be serving hot food.

After the half day Sports Day last Friday the students are eager to find out the results and see who has bragging rights for 2009.

It should be a great day and we hope to see you there!

Kate Nolan and Nick Prokopec
SPORT AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION COORDINATORS

CANTEEN ROSTERS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23 – FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

ST TERESA’S CAMPUS

Mon Hannah Lebon
Tue Rachel Fitzgerald Georgina Stewart
Wed Sarah Gurney Isabella Tilbrook
Hannah O’Rielly
Thur Ethan Burke Jake Kovacevic
Fri Mikayla Spence Heera Thanigaivel

Annette Cameron
CANTEEN MANAGER

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CAMPUS

No help is required during Week 5 due to swimming lessons.

Rose Cassar
CANTEEN MANAGER

SAINT JOHN’S CAMPUS

Mon Chris Barsby Sue Clements
Tue Helen Butt
Wed Annelli Hardman
Julie Rotherham Nicola Faulds
Fri Julia McMahon Deb Drobnjak

Marg Coad
CANTEEN MANAGER
You are invited to
Samaritan College

Wine and Cheese Tasting Evening

A casual evening of fun, games and socialising
Prizes and giveaways throughout the night

Family and friends welcome

Friday, March 20, 2009

at 7.30pm in the St John’s Campus Dining Room

cost only $5.00 per person, payable on the night
plus a donation of a bottle of wine to pool as part of the wine tasting

Nibbles, wine, champagne and soft drink provided
Eskies welcome to bring along any other drinks that you require on the night

Please return this reply slip to your campus office by
Thursday, March 19, 2009
To help the Parents & Friends Committee with catering

________________________________________________________

Wine & Cheese Tasting Evening
Friday, March 20, 2009

I/We ............................................................................................ will be attending.