Dear parents and caregivers,

During the last few weeks we have reflected upon the valued partnership with parents. Again this week we have had the privileged support of the community with the school development plan reference group (SDPRG) meeting and AGM.

The Annual General Meeting of the College was held last Thursday. With eight nominations to the Board we were very impressed with the desire of parents to be involved in the decision making about the children’s education into the future. The pool of offers was very impressive, with those present at the AGM commenting later that voting was extremely challenging. It is with great pleasure that we name our new appointees to the Board; Marlene Kenny and Paul Whitehouse. We thank you both in anticipation of the commitment and wisdom that you offer. We also congratulate Heidi Korossy who has nominated to be the staff representative for the next three years.

Next week we provide a significant opportunity for ALL parents to be involved in the development of Samaritan College, with the community consultation meeting for the school development plan, scheduled for next Tuesday, March 10, at 7.30pm in the Xavier Wing of SJC. This will be everyone’s opportunity to discuss what we are currently doing well, areas we can improve and how our school of the future will unfold. Please come along and contribute to building your children’s future through having a say in school improvement and in turn, making a difference.

School improvement is never far from our agenda, and with the Building Education Revolution (BER) pledge of the Australian Government arriving in the midst of our long term planning, there has been much deliberation and discussion on how best to utilise resources for maximum benefit to children’s learning, but also with responsibility. Although the community consultation referred to above is for the next five years, it may also help us shape more immediate reforms.

This week the Parent Community Group compiled a list of possible outcomes for their fundraising of 2008. The funds raised will be divided across the three campuses, with projects nominated that directly benefit the students. If you have been involved in the efforts of 2008 and would like to offer suggestions, please direct them to Karen McGinnis at info@samaritan.catholic.edu.au.

Samantha

TERISSA SHEPHERD

CHRIS SLOAN

CO-PRINCIPALS
Over the last week our Lenten discussion groups started in the Parish with over 45 parishioners involved. These groups bring us together for prayer and reflection during the weeks of Lent.

This week in the Parish we have the World Day of Prayer at St Teresa’s Church on Friday evening at 7.00pm when people will come together from the different churches. Our guest speaker is Dr Catherine Holt from the Anglican Church. This year’s service has been prepared by the women of Papua New Guinea. All are invited.

On Friday afternoon Fr Paul Bourke is bringing a Caritas visitor to Whyalla. We will have the opportunity to meet with them at Our Lady help of Christians church at 5.00pm. It is always good to meet these people who come to share with us. Everyone is welcome.

Attending one of these gatherings during Lent can open opportunities to meet new people.

Sr Cheryle Thomson
ON BEHALF OF THE PARISH TEAM

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2009

The Christian Church worldwide is joined in prayer on one day – Friday, March 6 with one theme and for one country. This year it has been prepared by the Christian Women of Papua New Guinea with the theme being:

‘In Christ there are many members yet one body.’

Background Information

World Day of Prayer is worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service.

- It is a movement initiated and carried out by women in more than 170 countries and regions.
- It is a movement symbolized by an annual day of celebration – the first Friday of March – to which all people are welcome.
- It is a movement which brings together women of various races, cultures, and traditions in closer fellowship, understanding, and action throughout the year.

Through World Day of Prayer, women around the world

- affirm their faith in Jesus Christ
- share their hopes and fears, their joys and sorrows, their opportunities and needs

Through World Day of Prayer, women are encouraged to

- become aware of the whole world and no longer live in isolation
- be enriched by the faith experience of Christians of other countries and cultures
- take up the burdens of other people and pray with and for them
- become aware of their talents and use them in the service of society

Through World Day of Prayer, women affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence in the world.

The symbol for World Day of Prayer was developed by the women of Ireland and adopted as the international logo in 1982. Its design is made up of arrows converging from the four points of the compass, persons kneeling in prayer, the Celtic cross, and the circle, representing the world and our unity through all our diversity.

Sited from the websites: World Day of Prayer International Committee
www.worlddayofprayer.net
www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org

Eleni Vailas
REC - OLHCC
COLLEGE NEWS

COMPUTER CORNER
Help your children improve their language skills with some of the following fun sites:

EARLY YEARS
ABC Starfall  alphabet and phonic stories
www.starfall.com
Chateau Meddybemps  stories and word games
www.meddybemps.com
Phonics Zone  mixed phonics
lcfclubs.com/englishzone/phonicszone

PRIMARY YEARS
FunBrain books, comics and fun language games
www.funbrain.com/words.html
Funschool  language games and other subjects
http://funschool.kaboose.com/arcade/language/

MIDDLE YEARS
Comic Creator  student can create personal comic
www.readwritethink.org/materials/comic/index.html
Factmonster  Almanac, dictionary, encyclopedia.
www.factmonster.com

ST TERESA’S CAMPUS NEWS

LITURGY AND ASSEMBLY IN WEEK 7
Next week Year 4/5 Usher will celebrate their Liturgy on Thursday, March 12 at 9.30am in the Library.

The assembly next week on March 13 will be lead by R/Year 1 Storr and is a junior campus assembly. Assemblies are always at 9.30am on Friday mornings

Bernie Meixner  CAMPUS COORDINATOR

WORLD MATHS DAY
Yesterday was World Maths Day. Children had the opportunity to participate in an on-line Maths competition that challenged their mathematical skills while competing against other children around the world of a similar age. World Maths Day encourages the use of quick arithmetic calculations to solve a range of numerical problems. Next week there will be student comments regarding World Maths Day.

LITERATURE CIRCLES
Have you heard your child referring to ‘Literature Circles’ or have you seen your child reading and preparing for Literature Circles at home and wondered what they are doing?

Literature Circles are small groups of students who gather together to select a text, read it independently and meet on a regular basis to discuss it. It is a way for students to engage in critical thinking as they read, discuss and respond to books. Literature Circles are part of a balanced reading program.

Literature Circles are well underway in our older classes with students enthusiastically participating and willingly sharing their knowledge and skills with other classes. It was great to see the peer teaching when the students in Year 6/7 Turpin modelled the process to Year 5/6 Baverstock and later, when the students in Year 5/6 Baverstock modelled the process to Year 4/5 Usher.

The student comments below speak for themselves.

Lou Whitehouse  CAMPUS COORDINATOR

I enjoy Literature Circles because they get you really interested in the book.

Ethan W

Literature Circles are great because they help you learn different reading skills like connecting between your life and the book.

Tapiwa

It was fun to show our learning to Year 4/5 Usher. I hope it helps them.

Lucy

3 of 6

UNIFORM UPDATE

The wet weather jackets arrived this week with suitable irony! They are very smart and a new addition to the College items. The committee made appropriate judgment that we are not a ‘blazer culture’, however, felt that a smart, warm and protective jacket was needed, based on student survey responses about cold weather.

Another reminder to all boys who have been waiting on the socks. They have arrived and you must now move into them. Non uniform socks are not permitted. Thank you.

Again, all families are reminded that skate shoes and other fashion counterparts are not permitted for Physical Education. Parents allowing children to wear them for sports activities may be unwittingly allowing harm to their children’s shins, tendons and ankles. Be strong!

Terissa Shepherd  CHAIR UNIFORM COMMITTEE
It was great to see how Year 6/7 Turpin do Literature Circles because it gave us an idea of what to do and what I will do next year.

Jake

It was great to model Literature Circles for Year 5/6 Baverstock. I got to show my skills and it felt good to teach a class the process. I liked getting the feedback on how well we did. I’ve only been doing them for 4 weeks.

Leigh

SWIMMING LESSONS – ADVANCE NOTICE

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO LUNCH ORDERS AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS IN THEIR SWIMMING WEEK.

Please note a change of times for Year 3/4 Opie*, Year 4/5 Usher* and Year 5/6 Baverstock.

Swimming lessons for St Teresa’s Campus children will be on the following dates.

Swimming lessons will take place every day during Week 8.

Week 8: (March 16-20)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 Reed/Judd</td>
<td>12.00-1.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/7 Turpin</td>
<td>12.00-1.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/7 Gogoll</td>
<td>12.00-1.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 Wohling</td>
<td>1.30-2.15pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Reed/Judd</td>
<td>1.30-2.15pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Swimming lessons will take place every day during Week 9.

Week 9: (March 23-27)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/4 Opie</td>
<td>12.00-1.30pm*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5 Usher</td>
<td>12.00-1.30pm*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6 Baverstock</td>
<td>12.00-1.30pm*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R/1 Storr</td>
<td>1.30-2.15pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R/1 Sanders</td>
<td>1.30-2.15pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bernie Meixner  
CAMPUS COORDINATOR

PROJECT COMPASSION

‘An Environment to Grow In’ is this year’s theme for Project Compassion.

Each year Caritas Australia highlights six projects. These stories give us the opportunity to journey with the participants and learn what can be achieved when we gather to reach out to these communities in need.

Our focus this week is: building food security and livelihoods for subsistence farmers in Uganda. Please consider giving generously.

Once again we will be announcing the amount of money raised for Project Compassion by using the thermometer chart. On this chart we will record the amount of money raised across the OLHC Campus as opposed to highlighting individual classes. The chart will be on display in the Office and, at the end of each week, the money will be collected from all the classes and the amount will be recorded as a combined total on the thermometer chart. The first amount will be added to the chart this Friday.

FOYER DISPLAY

This fortnight we have a lovely Foyer Display presented by Year 4/5 Fiedler featuring their Lenten Promises. Come along and read about their promises during their journey through Lent.

God Bless

Eleni Vailas  
CAMPUS COORDINATOR

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

ISSUE 2

Is now due TUESDAY, MARCH 10  
(day after the long weekend)

Please return orders to the library.

Thank you

Diana Jeffery

COMPULSORY EDUCATION AGE

As you may be aware, the compulsory education age is now 17 years. If students wish to leave secondary schooling to attend another institution or training in a workplace, families must apply for exemption. A student cannot just sign up elsewhere and then hope all parties are aware. We are now required to release the student with a letter directed to the future institution. The parents’ responsibility is to request an exemption form, which is lodged with us, and a ‘careers counseling’ discussion would be the natural course of events in the interests of the student. If you find yourselves in this position, please do not hesitate to contact Brett Czechowski or myself for advice.

MR SHARP IS STILL WITH US!

To quell the gossip, Mr Sharp is still delivering the VET Hospitality courses at Saint John’s Campus. Due to a provisional registration requirement, (which requires us to annually advertise the position and satisfy clerical expectations). Therefore, he currently has a fully registered staff member timetabled with him.

JAPANESE VISIT

For the past eight years the College has hosted students from Japan, providing our students with an enriching and educationally rewarding cultural exchange. The first step each year is to gather interest from possible host families. As a parent who has hosted four times, despite a busy life, I cannot sing the praises of this program highly enough. The whole family benefits, particularly younger siblings, and the host student is suitably challenged socially in that the typical teenager has to think of the needs of another, communicate with initiative.
and keep their room tidy! The students of Minakuchi High School will only be staying two weeks this year, so their ‘interruption’ to family life is short lived. Please take note of the advertisement in subsequent newsletters for upcoming information evenings. Please come along with an open mind. There are so many subtle things that contribute to the development of our children as ‘whole persons’, and the hosting opportunity certainly provides this education.

Terissa Shepherd
COPRINCIPAL

FORMAL
As many of you would know the formal is fast approaching (May 1) and amongst the tiaras and suits that students have been organising there is the notion that they have to get their feet into rhythm as well. We are extremely fortunate to once again have the very talented and very patient Mr & Mrs Rix volunteer their expertise to teach the students how to ‘trip the light fantastic’ and refresh their skills.

Students will start their first dance lessons next week (Week 7) in order to practice for the main event and I encourage them to bring to school the shoes that they intend to wear on the night so that they may practice in them. The dance lessons are conducted during normal class time each week. Year 11 students will also be expected to attend at least four after school sessions, which will be conducted on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays from Week 7 through to Week 1 of Term 2.

Being a part of the school community involves a variety of events and even though your child may be either excited or indifferent about the formal, its inclusion in the Senior School Program is integral to their identity as seniors and an important milestone in their College life. In saying this, if your child’s intention is to not attend the formal they are still required to participate in the dance classes. If you have any concerns or queries regarding their participation in the dance program please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Thank you,
Jade Vanzo
YEAR 11 COORDINATOR

MURRAY VENTURE 2009 UPDATE
Planning and organisation continues for the upcoming Year 10 Murray Ventures in April and May.

Last week letters were sent home with all students in Year 10 indicating which Murray Venture they had been allocated to: Mixed, Boys or Girls.

This week general consent forms, aquatic consent forms, medical forms as well as a general information letter along with a ‘What To Bring’ list will be sent home with all Year 10 students.

Please assist me, and Year 10 Caregroup teachers, in finalising numbers as quickly as possible with the speedy return of these consent forms.

All forms need to be returned to caregroup teachers no later than Wednesday, March 18 (Week 8).

Trent Keiper
YEAR 10 COORDINATOR

SPENCER GULF
On Friday, February 27, students from Saint John’s Campus attended the Spencer Gulf Carnival at Port Augusta. A total of 61 students and 3 teachers attended the day, with the weather holding out, clear skies and not too hot. All students represented the school in a fantastic manner and should be extremely proud of their efforts. The day turned out to be a huge success with the school winning the handicap shield for the first time in eight years. The students who finished first or second in their events on the day will be invited to attend the Adelaide Catholic Schools Carnival on March 23 at Santos. To our school’s credit we will hopefully have a strong representation. A notable mention goes to Nathan Covino, who continually shows his talent in athletics by winning the age champion for Open Boys and to think he still has one more year at school.

Mentioned below are the first place winners for their events. A big congratulations is extended to all who attended the day and for making it an enjoyable day for all teachers who attended. You carry the school name with pride and you should be proud of your efforts.

If your child has been selected for Adelaide a note will be sent home with them as soon as advised by the coordinator at Caritas College.

First place getters
Open Girls Rebecca North Shot Put and Javelin
Open Boys Steven Mills Javelin
Under 16 Girls Hayley Stone Shot Put and High Jump
CANTENE ROSTERS

MONDAY, MARCH 9 – FRIDAY, MARCH 13
ST TERESA’S CAMPUS

Mon | PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Tue | Janice and Georgina Stewart
Wed | Lexie Gill Jess Hanson
Thur | Tonia Munday Donna Clark
Fri | Judi Kneebone

Annette Cameron
CANTENE MANAGER

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CAMPUS

Mon | PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Tue | Maria Looyestyn
Wed | Dana Campion
Thur | Carmel Rosalia
Fri | HELP NEEDED

Rose Cassar
CANTENE MANAGER

SAINT JOHN’S CAMPUS

Mon | PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Tue | Jayne Bryant Michelle Harman
Wed | Donna Ward HELP NEEDED
Thur | Anita Graham Yvie Paintner
Fri | Judith Hill Rosslyn Cruse

Marg Coad
CANTENE MANAGER

WHYALLA SQUASH CLUB INC

The Whyalla Squash Club is looking for Junior players and is holding a
‘Come and Try Day’
Friday, March 13, 2009

Starting time is from 4.00pm and will finish at approximately 6.00pm.
The cost is $4 each which includes racquets and safety eyewear.
Do you feel like doing something different, come and try Squash.
Squash is a sun safe sport conducted in a well supervised environment.