This week we have enjoyed the Opening School Mass, concelebrated by Bishop Greg O'Kelly, Father Jim Monaghan and Father Arno Vermeeren. It is the third opening Mass as one College, and we believe that the vision to become a unified community is showing signs of bearing fruit. Tuesday was witness to our educational mission of developing the whole person. Bishop Greg asked, “why are we here? God can do wonderful things with unlikely people….to grow our talents for the sake of others, ….life is lived well when we live in the service of others, as the person in most need is our neighbour.”

We believe we are here to serve each other in our shared vision to meet the complex teaching and learning needs of the individuals in our care. The House Presentations following the Mass were a celebration of the spirit which is alive in this community. The presentations launched the ‘Glory of Guidera Cup’, which encourages the students to embrace all community initiatives, as the cup epitomises positive attitudes; participation; building community spirit, learning through the informal curriculum, particularly leadership and interactive skills; worthwhile engagement, particularly in uniting to assist others in need; and the passing on of positive values. On Tuesday, the students brought together their efforts of the past five weeks. They, along with staff, rose to the challenge of organising a whole College event and accomplished it beyond expectations. The outcome of Tuesday could not have happened without the hard work of all teaching and support staff, student leaders, parent volunteers and the generosity of the Mt Laura Lion’s Club in their effort to feed the thousand. The blessing to acknowledge is that despite its enormity, the degree of intimacy and sense of community was strong. It has been a delight to see how well the children interact and contribute to the strong sense of family. This was particularly evident in the past weeks with their dance practise opportunities and with the choir collaboration. Thank you to all of the parents and extended families who joined with us in the celebration.

Unfortunately a good day was marred by a delay in the arrival of the buses. Although scheduled, they arrived late and the company provided limited service. We apologise to staff and students who had to endure a lengthy wait.

There has been much discussion in the media about the ACARA Myschool website. In the past two years we have spoken through this newsletter about our concerns regarding the below benchmark results for some children, particularly in numeracy and some elements of grammar, with reference to various interventions we have implemented, such as professional development for staff with the Early and Middle Years Numeracy Project, the Quicksmart Numeracy Intervention Program, and recent appointment of ‘Literacy Expert’. These intervention strategies will be expanded this year as we continue to work towards school improvement. Parents have always had access to their children’s results and can discuss their concerns and possible interventions with teachers. The difference now is that statistics gathered and presented nationwide have presented averages and compared our children

continued page 2
with statistically similar schools and Australian schools in general. You will notice on the website that we have no similar schools in Whyalla, however, our statistically similar schools are Findon, Albert Park and Croyden, who draw their students from similar communities. Schools have been rated according to the ICSEA (Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage) value, which is determined by statistics gathered about parent income, employment and education history. This is a significant factor that should be taken into account, yet seems to be ignored as viewers simply hone in on results. The index of disadvantage indicates that some students suffer most with their ability to learn and achieve, as they are often beginning school life already on the back foot. As a school whose traditional Catholic mission is to provide quality education for all, our “ICSEA score” is lower than some. It is not surprising as we are catering to a diverse community across all postcodes. The law of averages tells us that the more students we count the more it allows for that diversity to affect the outcome. Thus we will continue to work hard to assist all children in their learning. What we do for the low achievers will also enhance the learning of more successful students. We ask that if parents want to find out more about the website and its implications that you seek discussion with members of the leadership team, as there is a good degree of confusion about how to read the information and what it actually means for your individual child. As all families receive their own NAPLAN results each year, many of you would already know where your child is at and may be happy with their growth and development, or, you may wish to inquire about what else can be done to support their learning.

Parish News

It seems like only yesterday when we celebrated Ash Wednesday – the beginning of Lent. And now we are in the Second week of Lent and approaching the Third Sunday. Before we turn around Holy Week will be upon us.

I would like to give you the dates of the important celebrations during Holy Week culminating with Easter Sunday. Firstly our Lenten time is one that calls us to change our lives and endeavour to act more in accordance with the Gospel and our celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is an important preparation for celebrating Holy Week. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated in a communal setting on Thursday, March 25 at 7:00pm at St Teresa’s Church.

Then on Sunday, March 27/28 we commemorate the triumphal entry in Jerusalem with Palm Sunday and a reading of the solemn account of Jesus Passion and death. Then on Wednesday night, March 31 there will be another celebration of Reconciliation in Our Lady Help of Christians Church at 7:00pm.

April 1 – Holy Thursday – the night we commemorate Jesus’ last Supper – 7:00pm at Our Lady Help of Christians Church.

April 2 – Good Friday – outdoor Stations on Saint John’s Campus oval at 11:00am. Then a commemoration of the Lord’s Death at 3:00pm in both churches.

April 3 – Easter Saturday – Vigil 7:00pm at St Teresa’s Church

April 4 – Easter Sunday - 8:30am – St Teresa’s and 10:30am – Our Lady Help of Christians.

We look forward to celebrating these celebrations with you.

Have a good week.

Sr Robyn
ON BEHALF OF THE PARISH TEAM

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<th>WEEKEND MASS TIMES</th>
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Religious Dimension

World Day of Prayer 2010

The Christian Church worldwide is joined in prayer on one day – Friday, March 5, with one theme and for one country. This year it has been prepared by the Christian Women of Cameroon, come with them to the Land of Promise, Land of Glory, to come together with confidence:

Let everything that has breath, praise God.

Praise him with trumpet sound;
Praise him with lute and harp;
Praise him with tambourine and dance;
Praise him with strings and pipe;
Praise him with clanging cymbals;
Praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

Psalm 150

The motto of the World Day of Prayer movement is Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action. Through our participation in the World Day of Prayer, we affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence on the world.

Eleni Vallas
REC - OLHCC
Samaritan College Restaurant

$50 per head
4 course set menu
BYO drinks
7pm start

For information and bookings please ring Mechelle at Saint John’s Campus on 8645 8568.
www.info@samaritan.catholic.edu.au

Open on the following Thursdays:
March 18 April 29
May 27 June 10 & 24

Bookings are essential as places are limited.

UNIFORM SHOP

Opening Hours
Wednesday 8:00-10:00am
Thursday 1:00-4:30pm

We now have a full stock of winter jumpers.

Wet weather jackets are available in all sizes, $25-$35. These are ideal for camps such as the Murray Venture.

Kerry Azzopardi Sharron Waldron
Toal Street, Whyalla Stuart
Ph: 8649 3168

COMPUTER CORNER

These internet sites may help parents to assist their children to understand the meaning of the great feast of Easter. There are also some fun activities:

Ash Wednesday-Easter
http://www.catholic.org/clife/lent/ashwed.php

Woodlands-Shrove Tuesday
www.woodlandstjunior.kent.sch.uk/customs/shrove.html

About.com Lent in the Roman Catholic tradition
catholicism.about.com/od/lent/Lent.htm

About Holy Week
www.cptryon.org/prayer/child/lent/holywk

The Easter Story
www.topmarks.co.uk/christianity/easter

Easter around the world
festivals.iloveindia.com/easter/traditions

Easter stories and customs
www.holidays.net/easter

The Easter Tree
www.cptryon.org/prayer/child/easter

They call it Easter
www.refuel.org.uk/projects/easter

Why Easter?
www.whyeaster.com

Jenny Kondylas

"I attended today’s Mass along with my husband. I would just like to say how much we both enjoyed it! We especially enjoyed the three dance routines created by the different houses and thought the students of all ages were remarkable.

All the students who took part are a credit to the school." email from parent (photo supplied)
WHY PEN IT

Why Pen It is a local creative writing competition which the Whyalla Public Library introduces to patrons and local school communities on an annual basis.

We hope it will capture and develop the literacy skills of children and young adults within the community of Whyalla.

Who can Participate?

Writers who are within the following age and school year groups.

- Open Junior (children below Year 5)
- School Years 5 – 7
- School Years 8 – 10
- School Years 11 – 12
- Open Senior Ages 17 – 25 years

Entries will be accepted as of Tuesday, February 23 and close on April 23.

Entry forms are available from:
- STC  Mrs Whitehouse
- OLHCC  Mrs Donnellan
- SJC  Mrs Rogers

WHY PEN IT

PREMIER’S BE ACTIVE CHALLENGE

Once again the Premier’s Be Active Challenge will run in 2010. The Premier is challenging each student in Reception to Year 9 to be active for one hour per day for four weeks. The children can keep paper based records of their achievements or record them directly on line at www.pbac.sa.edu.au.

More information will be distributed in the coming weeks.

Bernie Meixner

Samaritan College

Advanced Life Family Portrait Offer

You are invited to take advantage of the opportunity to have a beautiful framed Family Portrait for only $15. All you need to do is phone OLHC Campus to book a time for your portrait sitting, and pay the $15 fee, look beautiful on the day of the portrait, and wait for the results! The portrait day is Saturday, March 20, at Our Lady’s Campus in the Vessey Unit. Booking times are available from 9am. Please invite your family and friends to also take advantage of this offer.

There are spare brochures in each campus office to share with friends. There is no obligation to purchase the full portrait package when viewing your portrait. Portraits make great gift ideas, and just in time for Mother’s Day.

Please help our College fundraising efforts, and book your portrait time through the OLHC Campus.

Tania Taylor
ON BEHALF OF THE PARENT COMMUNITY

Primary Campus News

Primary Open Night
Samaritan College

Our Lady Help of Christians Campus

Wednesday, March 17
5:00-7:00pm

Interested parents are invited to come along to view classrooms and different aspects of the ‘curriculum in action’.

A full itinerary of activities will be distributed. This will enable you to plan your time to pop in and view an item in which you may be interested.
**EASTER RAFFLE**

The Student council at St Teresa’s Campus and Our Lady Help of Christians Campuses will be conducting an Easter Raffle this term which will be drawn separately on the respective campuses on Thursday, April 1.

The council are asking each family to donate an Easter egg or similar to help with the prizes for the raffle. Donations can be delivered to the front office.

A raffle book will be sent home to each family next week.

The money raised from the Easter Raffle will be donated to Project Compassion.

*St Teresa’s SRC*
*Our Lady Help of Christians SRC*

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**PROJECT COMPASSION**

‘Blueprint for a better world’ is this year’s theme for Project Compassion.

This year’s theme is inspired by the millennium development goals, which are eight life-changing goals to halve poverty by 2015.

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

Our focus this week is: Ensuring that children have access to primary schooling in Derby, Western Australia. Your donation to Caritas Australia’s Project Compassion helps to work towards achieving universal primary education for all children.

We will be keeping a record of the funds raised on display at both primary campuses.

_Eleni Vailas    Bernie Meixner_
_CAMPUS COORDINATORS_

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**OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CAMPUSS NEWS**

**CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY**

Our students will be participating in Clean Up Australia Day for Schools tomorrow, Friday, March 5. We will be cleaning up the Campus 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 or above, in which case it will take place at 9:15am.

God Bless

_Eleni Vailas_
_CAMPUS COORDINATOR_

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**ST TERESA'S CAMPUSS NEWS**

**SWIMMING LESSONS**

Please be advised that all the children in 2/3 Reed / Judd will be swimming in Week 9.

**YEAR 7 AQUATICS CAMP**

Year 7 Camp information will be coming home next week. The Year 7 camp will run from Sunday, March 28 to Tuesday, March 30.

**LITURGIES AND ASSEMBLIES**

Next week R/1 Sanders will be celebrating Liturgy on Thursday, March 11 at 9:30am.

R/1 Tullio will lead the Junior Assembly on Friday, March 12 at 9:30 am.

_Bernie Meixner_
_CAMPUS COORDINATOR_

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**SAINT JOHN’S CAMPUSS NEWS**

Congratulations to all involved in the Opening College Mass, especially those from the secondary campus who did a lot of the early morning setting up. It was great to see so many people on our oval and the spirit of all involved, especially those who volunteered to clean up after, was particularly pleasing.

The students also need to be congratulated on cleaning up the nearby scrub areas as part of Clean Up Australia Day held on Monday. Amazing how much rubbish was found on the hill behind the campus. Year 8 classes got into the spirit of the event so much, that they will do some more cleaning up of nearby sportsgrounds on Friday.

As 'report time' draws closer, students may have even more pressure to ensure they complete the work set by their teacher. It is very important and encouraged, that parents let their child's teachers know early, if their child is having extraordinary difficulties in completing the tasks. We like to think that there are always options for students to get the work done.

As summer sports draw to a close, it has been wonderful to see so many Samaritan students performing so well for their teams - as recorded in the Whyalla News.
**DRIVEWAY**

A reminder that the area in front of our Office is not a regular drop-off zone for children. Students need to be dropped off outside the school fence. With several classrooms only a few metres away, we ask that parents do not stop to drop off their children in this area – unless the student is physically unable to walk up our path.

Damien Judd
SECONDARY CAMPUS LEADER

**STAGE 1 AND 2 - SPECIAL PROVISIONS**

One of the key features of the SACE (both “old” and “new”) is its flexibility, and in particular the way in which assessment tasks and procedures can be modified to suit the learning requirements of all students. One of the most obvious ways in which this is achieved is through the granting of special provisions for students with physical disabilities (eg: cerebral palsy), hearing and/or vision impairment, medical conditions (eg: chronic fatigue syndrome), psychological illnesses (eg: Autism) or learning disabilities (eg: reading and/or writing difficulty).

The grounds upon which special provisions can be granted are numerous, and students need not have accessed the College’s Learning Support Centre in the past (or currently) to qualify. At Stage 2 special provisions apply principally to external assessment, such as exams, and the variations include additional time, rest breaks, enlarged examination papers, and the use of a reader, scribe or word processor scribe. Applications are determined by the SACE Board, and whilst the application process itself is relatively straightforward it can be time consuming. Thus, students who feel they may be eligible are encouraged to collect the necessary application forms from my office as soon as possible. Applications need to be returned to me no later than Monday Week 10 (March 29) in order to be received by the SACE Board by the end of the month.

At Stage 1 teachers are generally given the power to modify tasks as necessary to take into account all learning styles and abilities. These modifications are determined by the teacher in consultation with the student concerned, and generally involve a reduction in the word count, students presenting information orally rather than in writing and extensions. Whilst the modifications permitted at Stage 1 are more flexible and varied than at Stage 2, teachers are nevertheless required to record these modifications on their Learning and Assessment Plans. These documents are forwarded to the SACE Board at the start of each semester and, from next year onwards, will be used to help determine whether a student is entitled to special provisions at Stage 2. Parents/caregivers who feel their child may benefit from modified assessment tasks are invited to discuss the matter with Kelly Cook (Learning Support Coordinator) or myself.

Tanya Gibson
TEACHING AND LEARNING COORDINATOR.

**PARENT INFORMATION: MURRAY VENTURE**

The Murray Venture is a camp that is designed to challenge participants both physically and mentally. It is hoped that the camp will help to bring out young men and women who are more independent, responsible and more discerning about the people with whom they associate.

In the unique setting of the Murray lands, between Swan Reach and Blanchetown, the students work within their groups, under the supervision of teachers and helpers, to navigate, using maps and compass, from one camp site to another. Base camp is located off a dirt road that connects Swan Reach to Blanchetown. The necessary equipment and food is supplied to each group as required at the Base camp. Experience has shown that those students whose groups work cooperatively have enjoyed the experience and come away from the camp with stronger friendships.

The teachers’ role is to ensure that the students are kept as safe as possible. With water-based activities, kayaking, there is a minimum of one teacher/guide per student group and whilst hiking there will be at least one teacher/guide walking and another in a support vehicle that constantly traverses the route. The hikers are expected to sign in at various checkpoints to assist in the monitoring of their progress. The pastoralists in the area have been informed that we are there and they will redirect students who may have taken a wrong turn. Students who deliberately put others in danger ruin the experience for everyone and risk being sent home.

Over the past week, students have been busy forming their groups between 6 and 8 people, and they have each nominated one person to be the Team Captain and another to be the Vice Captain, both of which have important roles during the camp. Both will be responsible for the organisation of the group.

The camp has two parts to it, the first is the two day/one night camp where the students kayak or hike to a destination, spend the night, and then return, hike or kayak, to Base camp the next day. They then have a rest day in which to prepare for a three day/two night camp. Again they would hike or kayak for one and a half days before changing activities and returning to Base camp.

Permission forms, Aquatic Permission forms along with a list of what to bring have been sent home with students this week. Please ensure that these forms are returned by the END OF WEEK 8 so that numbers can be finalised.

The safety and protection of the students, while on the camp, is our main concern. It is for these reasons that we hold strong convictions against having alcohol or other recreational drugs on the camp. A student who is found to be in possession of any of these substances is at risk of being sent home at the family’s expense.

If you have any queries feel free to contact me at any time.

Trent Keiper
YEAR 10 COORDINATOR

**BILLETS FOR YEAR 9 RETREAT**

As part of the school’s commitment to religious education we have booked the services of a team from NET Ministries to run the Year 9 Retreat this term. NET Ministries is a Catholic youth ministry that has been operating in Australia since 1988. The team of 11 young adults from NET Ministries are from various parts of the world and volunteer a year to facilitate retreats for students from over 100 schools across Australia.

An exciting part of their ministry is that team members are billeted with the families of students at the schools that
the team visits. I would like to offer you the opportunity of hosting 2 NET Ministries team members from Monday, March 29 to Wednesday, March 31. The team members are equipped with their own transport and sleeping bags. Their days are filled with facilitating the retreats or team preparation days.

They will basically require somewhere to sleep and dinner and breakfast for the duration of their stay with you.

In the past families have commented on what an enjoyable and positive experience it was to host these young adults. If you are in a position to host members for dates noted above please contact me on 8645 8568 by Thursday, March 18 or fill in the form below and return to the College.

Thank you.

Angela Rogers
REC

I ______________________________________ can host 2 members of the NET Ministries team from Monday, March 29 to Wednesday, March 31.

I can be contacted on ____________________________ to discuss arrangements. My child is in _____________ (caregroup).

Calling all Easter Eggs!

We are asking for donations of easter eggs for our annual easter raffle (to be drawn on Holy Thursday at Saint John’s Campus). Please be generous – all proceeds go to charity.

Thanks.

Angela Rogers
REC

Annette Cameron
CANTEEN MANAGER

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Marg Coad
CANTEEN MANAGER

**COMMUNITY News**

**POSITIVE PARTNERSHIPS WORKSHOP**

Free 2 day workshop for parents of school-aged children with autism spectrum disorders.

**March 16 & 17**
Westlands Hotel

Further details and Registration www.autismtraining.com.au