Welcome back to the new year of education, care and support in the Samaritan College community. This week we welcomed many new reception children and their families, the Year 8s who have transitioned from many schools and over 20 Year 9-12 students who have joined our community. We hope your time with us is fruitful and supportive and we encourage all families to get involved with your children’s school, in making yourselves known to teachers, as your children stand to gain the most from such initiative. It has been pleasing to witness the hospitality of our students as they have offered support to newcomers this week. May you enjoy the continuity of a supportive community throughout the formal education years of your families. That continuity also exists beyond Year 12 in many ways such as the great pleasure we had in hosting an old scholar’s wedding last Saturday. Congratulations to Michael and Veronica Jessop who renewed their wedding vows in our Chapel of Emmaus. We also congratulate our 2010 Year 12s on the outcome of their efforts as they prepare to either go into paid work or further study. Please see elsewhere in this Newsletter for acknowledgements.

In addition, we welcome our new staff, who are either replacing teachers on maternity leave or have permanent positions with us. We welcome our new ICT personnel: Sandro Parisi and Matt Kozar; teachers on the OLHC Campus: Kirsty Scott, Jenna Baulderstone, Melissa Reeves, Nicole Boots, and Nikki Lancaster; and on the secondary campus: Ryan Baker, Tom Gilligan, Tony Hall, Katherine Hannon, Carly Higgins, Jodie Hopkins and Learning Support Officer, Christine Young.

It is the unfortunate reality that our children return to school at the hottest time of the year and as such, we experience some degree of discomfort, despite everyone feeling refreshed from their break. Although classrooms are air conditioned, we do find that some struggle with higher heat days and large groups in rooms. We are making every effort to create alternative comfort zones if some facilities are not managing well. If at any time you feel uncomfortable about your child attending school, you are free to make that decision to keep them home. Although an initial hot start, we have had a slight temperature reduction now and in the coming days which may ease the hot weather challenge for our children and staff.

You will notice we are advertising a front office position(s) this week. Sadly, we farewell Mechelle Lew and her family as they move to Queensland for Reuben’s work. As this was a newly appointed position there may be some who applied last year who are interested in applying again. As we do not keep applications, feel free to contact Karen McGinnis via info@samaritan.catholic.edu.au for information. This time there is the additional opportunity for part-time job share or full-time work, which may suit various applicants.

Dear parents and caregivers

“He also said, wherever you are welcomed, stay in the same house until you leave that place.” Mark 6: 10 - 11
Our staff were back at work last week, participating in workshops, planning meetings and preparing classrooms. We always take the time to reflect on quality professional practice with our staff. The quote below sums up what we want our teachers to strive for:

“Our most effective teachers show that great teaching is leadership. In every highly effective classroom, we find a teacher who, like any great leader, rallies team members (in this case, students and their families) around an ambitious vision of success. We find a teacher who plans purposefully and executes effectively to make sure students reach that vision, even as that teacher also continues to learn and improve.”

We have many events just on the horizon, so please keep the college calendar on the fridge or check it online as we will update it from time to time. We looking forward to meeting all parents at the parent evenings in Week 3. We would also encourage parents to consider nominating for Board and attending our AGM in Week 4, February 24 as understanding how your College functions assists appreciation of all we are aiming to do for your children.

Presenting a New Year

Tuesday, February 2 is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. We commemorate the experience of Mary and Joseph when they took Mary’s baby, Jesus, up to the Temple at Jerusalem. As a Jewish family, they were required to consecrate their first-born to the Lord, the God of Israel. This was a sign of faith and trust by the family, and a sign of God’s loving endorsement of the family.

What must Mary have felt and thought, when a complete stranger, Simeon, came forward, took the baby in his arms, and made his glad yet worrying predictions about Jesus? And as another, Anna the prophetess, spoke to everyone there about this baby?

What do you parents think, and feel, as you observe your beloved children, and wonder what God has in store for them?

This day is also the Foundation Day of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan, and we rejoice in the arrival of Sisters Sonia Wagner and Helen Mills. They tell me that they both entered committed religious life on this Feast of the Presentation. May their lives and work among us be blessed with joy and fruitfulness! We haven’t heard yet which footy team they support. Will they follow Sister Robyn, and the Broncos? Or Father Tony, and that awful teal mob? Or take after Sister Cheryle, and follow the Crows, even if it does take a great deal of faith?

In God’s goodness, we have been presented with this new year of our college and our community. May we be a sign of faith and hope to all who see us or hear of us. May many find consolation and renewed faith, through the life of our College family.

Fr Jim Monaghan
FOR THE PARISH TEAM.

Old scholar Michael Jessop and Veronica celebrated the renewal of their wedding vows in the Chapel of Emmaeus.

The happy couple originally wed in Mexico. Father Jim and Father Michael Hillier cocelebrated.

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<th>WEEKEND MASS TIMES</th>
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<td><strong>St Teresa’s Church</strong></td>
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Welcome to the first school year of a new decade which, no doubt, will have a surprise or two to reveal to us; we can but hope they will be happy surprises. To all families and to our caring community we offer the warmest of welcomes. We hope that any smouldering embers of regret about the passing of the holiday period will soon be extinguished by the renewing of old friendships and the making of new ones.

We all know that children receive the best education when parents and teachers work as a team. Parents’ enthusiasm, support and involvement are integral to the success of our school as are the skills, dedication and professionalism of teachers. Together, staff and parents can provide educational excellence for every student, so that they can achieve their personal best. Together, we can support one another to provide a friendly academic environment and, when appropriate, celebrate our achievements.

We hope that throughout the year, Samaritan College will be a place where staff, students and families have opportunities to experience God’s presence in our lives. Although he lived about two and a half thousand years ago, the prophet, Jeremiah, has words that are still relevant for us at the beginning of this new school year: “The Lord says, I know the plans I have for you ….. plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11.

Within Samaritan College, we can all try to model God’s love for each one of us, by being a renewing community where all members are valued, affirmed and empowered; where our commitment to Gospel values is expressed in every facet of our school’s endeavours.

For this sentiment to continue throughout the year, it will require our collective wisdom and generosity of spirit to be at the forefront of all our communications.

Education today is a complex engagement because of the intensity and variety of external influences particularly through various forms of media and electronic communications. Samaritan College has a special role in assisting every parent with the education of their children, so that all children will develop a sense of personal responsibility and learn the correct use of freedom. Throughout the year, our school will provide counter experiences of liturgy and prayer to assist the spiritual and moral maturity of all our students.

May this first school year of the new decade, see staff and parents in partnership in our collective role of secular and faith education.

“God, our Father:
We ask that Your Spirit be a constant influence in the lives of all who make up our school community this year.
Help our students to be discerning, so that the outcomes of their choices will be in accord with Christian values. Amen.”

Peace and Best Wishes.

Bernie Meixner
APRIM

RELIGIOUS DIMENSION

COMPUTER CORNER

You would have noticed in the media lately that Wikileaks was publishing private information about government departments. If they can unblock government correspondence how much easier it would be to access anything we, or our children, have put on line. Below is a letter sent to all clients from a solicitor.

Re Facebook: Your Privacy and Your Claim

As you know Facebook is a huge social network and a popular form of communication.

In July 2010 it was claimed that there were 500,000,000 active users worldwide.

In recent times there have been many warnings regarding the fact that Facebook is not a private form of communication.

We often read the Press about embarrassing, humiliating or tragic consequences of people’s Facebook entries being exposed without their knowledge or permission.

Put simply, none of us should consider internet communication as private. It is easily accessible and transferable.

Facebook communication is also a potential way for insurers to access private information about you.

We have recently become aware that claimants have been targeted by an insurer because of damaging Facebook entries.

We strongly advise our clients to deactivate their Facebook profiles or at least carefully consider all entries.

Always keep in mind that Facebook is essentially a public forum.

With a new school year perhaps it is time to clean up our family entries in Facebook!

Jenny Kondylas
EDUCATION SUPPORT OFFICER

Administration Officer - Front Office
1 Permanent position
minimum 35 hours per week
OR
the possibility of part-time job share

The successful applicant(s) need to have excellent presentation and communication skills and appropriate office administration knowledge and competencies.

Position Commences: ASAP

Enquiries: For role clarification contact Co- Principals’ Assistant: Karen McGinnis.

Applications close February 11, 2011

Forward to:
The Co- Principals
Samaritan College
PO Box 351
Whyalla SA 5600
Telephone (08) 8645 8568
Email info@samaritan.catholic.edu.au

Want to impress your friends??
Need some light hearted fun on a weeknight?
Book now for your limited place in

“Gourmet Gastronomique”
Adult cooking classes start Tuesday, February 15.
Each session runs from 6-9pm

Term 1
1. Salt and Pepper Snapper with Asian salad and Nuoc Cham
2. Vietnamese Pho
3. Tandoori Chicken with Mint Chutney and Lemon Rice
4. Thai Masaman Curry with Coconut Rice
5. Phad Thai
6. Braised Pork Belly with Egg and Coconut Juice

Bookings essential as places are limited and must be finalised by Friday, February 11 for planning and shopping purposes.

Please ring Saint John’s Campus on 8645 8568.
This course is a 6 week entity: payment of $180 must be made prior to DAY 1. Credit card payment can be made over the phone or at Reception.

Samaritan College Restaurant
Located in the Dining Room at Saint John’s Campus
70 Gowrie Ave, Whyalla Playford
$45 per head
4 course set menu
7pm start

Menu for February 17
Gazpacho Soup, Avocado Salsa
Sashimi Tuna, Sushi Rice, Nori, Daikon, Soy, Wasabi
Tenderloin of Beef, Horseradish Potato Salad, Ravigote Dressing
Lime Sorbet, Coconut Bavarois, Toasted Coconut, Mango

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

Future Dates for 2011
March 3, 17, 31 August 11, 25
May 12, 26 September 8, 22
June 9, 23

Bookings essential as places are limited.

Parent Information Evening
Monday, February 7
7:00pm
Our Lady Help of Christians Campus
Toal Street
Meet in the Church

Parent Information Evening
Tuesday, February 8
7:00pm
St Teresa’s Campus
Darling Tce
Meet in the library

Annual General Meeting
Thursday, February 24
7:30pm
St John’s Campus
Gowrie Ave
Meet in the lecture theatre
Parenting Ideas  
by Michael Grose:  
Help your child ACHIEVE!

One way to help your child achieve at school is to work together with your child's teacher. The parent-teacher partnership takes work from both sides to become a reality. Here are some ideas that will help.

There's no doubt that the best outcomes for kids happen when teachers and parents work together to support children's learning. Here are 10 ways you can work with your child's teacher to maximise your child’s chances of school success.

1. Know what your child’s teacher is trying to achieve.  
Like children, every teacher is different with their own specific expectations, goals and interests. Get to know your child's teacher and gain an understanding of their approach and aspirations for your child's class.

2. Keep your expectations reasonable and positive.  
If your expectations are too high they may give up. Too low and they will meet them! The trick is to keep your aspirations for your child in line with their ability and their interests. Also be realistic about what your child's school can deliver. Sometimes our expectations of schools are not in line with their capabilities or their roles.

3. Support your teacher's expectations & activities at home.  
One practical way of supporting your child is to take a real interest in their home-based learning tasks and follow the guidelines laid out by teachers.

4. Send kids to school ready to learn and on time.  
Maximise your child's chances of success by sending them to school in a good frame of mind, with plenty of sleep and a good breakfast. Also make sure they get to school on time. It's estimated that many kids miss up to two weeks of school a year when they are routinely late by just five minutes a day.

5. Inform teachers of your child's challenges and changes.  
Life's not always smooth sailing for kids. Family circumstances can alter. Friends move away. Illness happens. These changes affect learning. Make sure you keep your child's teacher up-to-date with significant changes or difficulties your child experiences, so he or she can accommodate their emotional and learning needs at school.

6. Skill children to work with others.  
Schools are social places requiring children to work and play with each other much of the time. Teaching manners to kids, as well as encouraging them to share their time, space and things with others are practical ways to help kids with their social skills. Talk through any social challenges they may have, helping them develop their own strategies to get on with others.

7. Respectfully seek joint solutions to problems and difficulties.  
Resist the temptation to solve all your children's problems or think you have the only solution. Most learning and social problems can be resolved when teachers and parents work together in the best interests of the child.

8. Participate fully in class & school activities.  
There is a huge body of research that points to the correlation between parent involvement in a child's schooling and their educational success. Quite simply, if you want your child to improve his learning then take an interest in his learning, attend as many school functions as you can, and follow the lead provided by your child's teacher. This simple strategy will have a massive, long-term impact.

9. Trust your teacher's knowledge, professionalism and experience.  
Your child's teachers are your greatest allies. Their training, their experience around kids and their objective professionalism puts them in a strong position to make judgement calls about your child.

10. Talk up what happens at school.  
Your child will take their cues from you about how they see their school. If you want your child to value learning, and enjoy their time at school then you need to support your school and make sure he or she hears positive messages about learning, teachers and the school itself. You can set a strong educational agenda at home by talking up your school.

This type of 10 point plan is easy to read but hard to put into practice, particularly when you get busy or your child has significant difficulties. Choose two or three ideas from this list to really focus on in the coming year and you'll find that the rest will fall into place. Good luck and nurture the partnerships you have with your child’s teachers.

Due to recent extreme weather in Queensland, we have also made available via our website the “HELP YOUR CHILD DEAL WITH NATURAL DISASTERS” Insight from Michael Grose. This can be found under FAQ's, FORMS & FILES.
Welcome to the beginning of the 2011 school year! I trust that the Christmas holiday season was both enjoyable and a relaxing time spent with family. Our community extends a very special welcome to all of the new students and their families and the new members of staff. We pray that they will find a unique place in the Samaritan story and that their learning and community journey will be richly nurtured by God’s blessing and the spirit of compassion in action.

Even though we have started the school year with soaring temperatures, it was wonderful to see so many smiling faces coming through the gates of the primary campuses. The children seemed to have enjoyed their long break but were eager to return to school to catch up with their friends and settle back into the school routine.

One cannot begin the year without some reflection on the events which devastated so many people here in Australia. The Australian community has responded generously to the flood victims already. If you have not had an opportunity to donate as yet, collection boxes are available in classes.

I ask all families to please return medical and permission forms by the end of this week. If you have changed address or your mobile phone number, please contact the front office immediately so that office staff can revise your details. It is very important that we have this up to date information to avoid difficulties in an emergency situation.

There are many, many exciting events to come this year and we ask that you attach the enclosed calendar to your fridge to provide a visual reminder of important dates and times in the school term.

I encourage all parents to make contact with your child’s teacher as soon as possible to open effective channels of communication. An opportunity to meet your child’s teacher will be at our annual Parent Information Evenings held on the primary campuses early next week. All parents are encouraged to attend and meet teachers and hear further information about the new year and learning programs.

OLHCC - Monday, February 7 at 7:00pm in the Church.
STC – Tuesday, February 8 at 7:00pm in the Library.

Good communication is one essential element of your child’s success at school.

CRUNCH AND SIP

Each day, at approximately 10:00am, students have brain food and water to help them stay on task and to engage in high levels of concentration and problem solving. Please ensure that your child/children brings water and some fruit or vegetable to have at this time each day. Research has shown that when students have these breaks and eat this sort of food and hydrate adequately, their ability to concentrate and learn increases dramatically.

SCHOOL BANKING

School banking is available at both primary campuses. Both campuses are visited by Alliance One and Bank SA. Commonwealth Bank is also available at the OLHC Campus.

Parents wishing to organise school banking for their children are encouraged to contact their primary campus for further details.

BELL TIMES

We would like to advise you of a change to the dismissal time at the OLHC Campus. Instead of 3:15pm, it will now be 3:20pm.

As per usual, teachers will be on yard duty after school until 3:30pm. Children who haven’t been picked up by 3:30pm need to be collected from the Front Office.

Both campus bell times are now in line with one another.

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:45am</td>
<td>Start school day – lessons begin</td>
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<td>11:00am</td>
<td>Recess</td>
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<td>11:20am</td>
<td>Lessons resume</td>
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<td>12:50pm</td>
<td>Lunch – supervised eating time</td>
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<td>1:00pm</td>
<td>Start lunch - playtime</td>
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<td>1:45pm</td>
<td>End lunch - playtime</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:45pm</td>
<td>Lessons resume</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:20pm</td>
<td>End school day – students dismissed</td>
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POLICY FOR STUDENTS LEAVING THE CAMPUSES DURING SCHOOL TIMES

Please be reminded of the College’s policy for students leaving during school hours. All students who have appointments during school hours must bring a signed note from their teacher. Students will then be sent to the front office by their teacher at the appropriate time to await pick-up by the person named in the note. Parents / caregivers will need to sign a student release form before the student can leave the school grounds.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our students safe at all times.

Yours in Faith, Wisdom & Compassion,

Eleni Vailas
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL (PRIMARY CAMPUS LEADER)
Welcome back and a special welcome to our new staff and students and their families who join Samaritan College in 2011.

With all the new students, families and staff comes the same routine of the amount of forms that need to be read, signed and returned to the College ASAP. These are very important and must be returned within the next few days.

These forms not only contain information for families but they provide us with permission for various activities at school and most importantly vital medical information about your child.

I recommend the College diary as a good source of information for most matters relating to College life and your child’s caregroup teacher is also a wonderful first point of contact. An opportunity to meet your child’s caregroup teacher and other staff will occur on February 16 at 7:30pm, although, staff are available most other times by appointment.

The College calendar also outlines when many key events occur, and many, many more get added as the year progresses. The calendar is sent home with your child. An updated calendar is available for viewing on our website.

Many forms that the students need are also on our website: subject changes, permission to drive to school, work experience, permission to use own laptop etc.

Finally, I remind parents that supervision of your child starts at 8:15am. Students who arrive at school before that time are not supervised.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to our 2010 Year 12 students. 9 students gained an ATAR of 90 or higher. Over 90% of students offered their first choice at University of TAFE.

Special congratulations to Tim Wilson (Design, Construction & the Community) and Sophie Gonzales (English Studies) for gaining Merit Awards (perfect scores). We also congratulate their teachers Mr Thursby and Mrs Rogers.

We also congratulate these and other Year 12 students for gaining an A in their subjects: Lisa Berry, Sarah Girvan, Ben Whittaker, Stephanie Foran, Izaak Gurney, Taylor Hancock, Jordan Lawson, Chelsea Stokes, Hayley Stone and Shannon Tarran.

Damien Judd
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL (SECONDARY CAMPUS LEADER)

ENGLISH FACULTY 2011

The English Department is excited about starting a new year. We have several new staff members in the faculty this year including: Tony Hall (Years 9, 10 & 11), Ryan Baker (11) and Carly Higgins (8).

Our ‘older’ staff this year consist of Kelly Cook (12 Communications), Angela Rogers (11 & 12 Studies), Marie Van Niekerk (8, 9, 10 & 11), James Keating (8, 9, 10 & 11), Kimberley Hall (10) and myself (9 & 12 Communications).

If you have any questions, queries or concerns about your child’s learning of English, do not hesitate to contact their English teacher at the school.

Best wishes for the start of a new year.

Beck Pollard
ENGLISH FACULTY COORDINATOR

CANTEEN

Welcome back to my wonderful volunteers for another fun year of canteen duty. Sadly I lost a few helpers at the end of last year. If you have even half or one hour spare a month I would love to hear from you. Either phone 8645 8568 (not at recess or lunch please) or fill in the slip over the page and return to Saint John’s Campus.

Recess is 10:25-10:55am and Lunch is 1:10-1:40pm.

Thank you.

Marg Coad
CANTEEN MANAGER

YEAR 8 IMMUNISATIONS

Immunisation cards will be distributed to all Year 8 students this week. Please complete and return them to their Caregroup teacher NO LATER than Wednesday, February 9.

James Keating
YEAR 8 COORDINATOR
All canteens need parent help to operate effectively, if you feel that you could spare some time each month please complete the following slip and return it to your campus office.

(NAME: ..........................................................)

(CONTACT DETAILS: ________________________)

(Please tick)

(CAMPUS:)

☐ Our Lady Help of Christians
☐ Saint John's
☐ Saint Teresa's

I would be able to help on Canteen

☐ at lunch
☐ at recess
☐ both lunch and recess

Available on the following day(s)

☐ Monday
☐ Tuesday
☐ Wednesday
☐ Thursday
☐ Friday

.......................................................................................

COMMUNITY NEWS

WHYALLA COMBINED NETBALL TRAINING

If you are wanting to participate in combined netball for season 2011 trials for the following grades will commence on February 20 at the Recreation and Leisure Centre. This will be the only opportunity to trial. Please bring drink bottles.

11 under 11am - 12:30pm (born 2000-2001)
13 under 1pm - 2:30pm (born 1998-1999)
15 Under 3pm - 4:30pm (born 1996-1997)
17 under 4:30 - 5:30pm (born 1994-1995)

Marlene Kenny
PRESIDENT

CAINTEN ROSTERS

Monday, February 7 – Friday, February 11

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| Janette Leevers     |

| Annette Cameron     |

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| HELP NEEDED         |

| Marg Coad           |

Are you aged between 14½ & 18?

- Want to try a variety of activities/sports?
- Want to learn new skills?
- Then why not give Venturer Scouts a go!

Whyalla Venturer Unit

Monday nights, 7:00pm – 9:00pm
4th Whyalla Scout Hall, Rozee Street

For more information contact the Leader-in-Charge
Heather ~ 0417 807 424
or visit www.scouts.com.au