Dear Parents/Caregivers,

It is hard to believe we are already at the end of Week 3. The students have settled into routines and new children are adapting quite well to their surroundings and new relationships. As you may be aware, our charism is based on the Samaritan stories. Each one of these reveals the Samaritan to be a person of generosity, friendliness towards others who were not necessarily ‘of their group’; and a capacity to use their intellect for the common good. Such simple and down to earth morality is something we aim to engender in our students. It is in our openness to enrolments and our desire and actions to assist children with enhanced needs. It is also in our proactive work to educate students and families about cyber safety, and our encouragement of parents to work in partnership with one another and with staff, as the adults entrusted to their care. Thus, we thank parents for your attendance at the third of our ‘meet the parents evenings’ held last night at the Saint John’s Campus and look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

COMMISSIONING MASS

On Monday all staff attended the Commissioning Mass lead by Bishop Greg O’Kelly. This is an annual mass for all schools in the diocese where every staff member in catholic schools is ‘commissioned’ by the Bishop to work with young people. It is a very re-affirming process where we are all entrusted with the blessing of educating young people.

AGM

Please see attached nomination form for a position on the 2012 College Board. Positions are for 2 years. It is a very worthwhile experience especially during this time of building and campus consolidation. There is one Board for all 3 campuses so parents of children from all grades are encouraged to nominate. A basic list of responsibilities of being on our Board can be found on our website. Parents who may not wish to commit to being a board member may like to join a committee that reports to the Board. More information on those to come.

All parents are invited to attend the AGM on Thursday February 23 at 7:30pm at the Saint John’s Campus lecture theatres.

CYBERSAFETY

We alert parents to the following websites. The first is an easy to follow guide to the world of online socialising. This explains to parents what young people are up to and why. The second site is for teenagers. It has videos and games explaining the right way to behave online and the risks involved. http://www.dbcde.gov.au/easyguide http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/Teens.aspx

A crucial piece of advice for parents is to read what your child is posting on Facebook and to be ‘in charge’ of their access to it.
GRACE! WHO NEEDS IT?

When we are born we have an innate sense that we are the centre of the universe and that everything revolves around us. As we become more aware of our wants and needs, we do all we can to attract the attention of Mum and Dad to get them. When we come in contact with siblings and move through the stages of growth into maturity we realise that we are not simply here to take all we can get but to contribute as well, as members of an interdependent society. Unfortunately some of us never grow up and some become so famous, obsessed or powerful that self-centredness is their reality.

It seems to me that we, in the developed nations, have come somewhere similar in our attitude towards the world in which we live. We have so much and we are in such apparent control of our needs and wants that, not only do we believe that we are entitled to our privileged position but, that we are also capable of providing them ourselves. Science, knowledge, medicine and the environment it seems, can be mined to provide us with all we aspire to so why do we need grace?

We are so used to most things working so remarkably well that somehow we believe that there is nothing more to it than what we can see and measure. But anyone who has experienced the death of another can see and measure the effects of life and can obviously see what happens when the spark of life, we call the soul, is no longer present. We can’t see or measure that spark but we know when it is there and when it isn’t.

The reality of that spark and its mystery, can be seen as a reflection of the presence of grace in the universe. Grace can be understood as that underlying power which urges every thing in the universe forward, sustains it in its existence and draws it to its final destiny. If there were no such power, the least we could expect would be random chaos.

But there is more to grace. It is a participation in the life of the creator, the real CENTRE OF THE UNIVERSE – GOD. Fortunately, God’s involvement doesn’t depend on our recognition or acknowledgement - just as loving parents don’t abandon ignorant, self-focused infants, God remains constant with us. God is graciously present in our reality and provides us with the opportunity to recognise and embrace that presence. That is how we grow up in the spiritual sense and in growing up and accepting responsibility our lives become more real, richer and more meaningful. We are invited into the loving inter-relationship of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We are able to realise who we are, what we are doing here and where we are going.

We do need Grace? Many of us don’t know what it is or understand why we need it. From Pentecost this year, the Australian Catholic Bishops are urging us to re-visit our understanding of grace to better understand and live our relationship with God.

Fr Arno Vermeeren
ON BEHALF OF THE PARISH TEAM.

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<tr>
<th>WEEKEND MASS TIMES</th>
<th>St Teresa’s Church</th>
<th>Our Lady Help of Christians Church</th>
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RELIGIOUS DIMENSION

In preparing the students for our Opening School Mass we have been deconstructing the Samaritan stories to look for the message Jesus has for us in each of them. So how do we treat others? Do we show our gratitude when things are done for us? Are we open to receiving living water?

Students have been given opportunities to see how the Samaritan stories relate to them in their every day lives and they have shown the following insights.

“In my picture of people holding their hands around the globe I have shown that people are putting aside their differences and living in harmony.”

“Love your neighbour as yourself.”

“Accept and help each individual no matter what their beliefs or background consists of.”

“Don’t base decisions on others’ judgements.”

“Don’t ignore issues.”

“I think society is slowly becoming more equal but it is going to be a long time before discrimination disappears completely.”

“Do you judge people just by appearance?”

Are we open to the challenge of the Samaritan stories? Jesus sometimes went against conventional expectations - are we prepared to do the same? As with the Samaritan, expressing love for our neighbour comes from our own spiritual growth and preparation. We don’t need to overcome all of our own problems before we’re ready to help another, but we do need to love God, to love what is good in ourselves, and to identify good in others.

Christine Duffield
DIRECTOR OF STUDENTS (SECONDARY)
OPENING COLLEGE MASS

The Opening Mass will be held on Saint John’s Campus oval on Friday, February 24.

On this day our entire College comes together to give thanks for the year ahead and pray for the blessings of God on our community. The Mass is part of the tradition of our College, as it is for all Catholic schools.

The Mass will begin at 9:30am and children from the primary campuses will need to be dropped at Saint John’s Campus by 8:30am. For more information on the logistics of the day for parents of primary aged children, see the note that accompanies the newsletter today. Students from the secondary campus come to school as normal.

The Mass is a celebration for our community. So I invite parents to attend the Mass if you have the time to make this a community celebration.

At the Opening Mass the students who have been elected to represent their peers on the Student Representative Council SRC will be blessed and receive their badges.

Bernie Meixner
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL IN RELIGIOUS IDENTITY AND MISSION (APRIM)

Parenting Ideas
by Michael Grose:

Positive Parent Involvement - you make a difference

Positive parent participation demonstrates to children that you value learning as well as their school.

Parental withdrawal from children’s education is a big problem these days as increasingly parents are worn out from working too hard or being involved in a variety of activities. By the time you get home from work or doing other activities you are spent.

But the message for parents is clear – become involved in as many aspects as practical in your child’s education. The involvement of parents helps break down the mystique about school that can exist for some children. Their chances of success are better when they see school as an extension of home rather than merely an institution for learning.

Positive parent participation demonstrates to children that you value learning as well as their school. Children copy many of their parents’ views so your positive attitude to school and learning is catching.

Many primary schools offer parents classroom jobs such as hearing kids read, taking small groups in elective activities and assisting children when writing stories.

Parent participation is much broader than helping out in the classroom. There is a range of simple ways to assist teachers to maximise the learning of your child. These include; hearing young learners read, helping with homework and making sure kids go off to school happy, healthy and with plenty of sleep.

Here are some more ideas to help you participate in your child’s education in positive ways:

- **Find out** what your school is trying to achieve for your child and show your support for its aims. Discover what sets your child’s school apart from others.
- **Support a broad, balanced curriculum** that offers children a variety of educational experiences rather than a program that focuses narrowly on the traditional 3 R’s.
- **Direct constructive criticism through the correct channels** such as your child’s teacher, the principal or the school’s governing body. Gossip or thoughtless criticism within the general community can easily tarnish a school’s reputation.
- **Become an advocate** for your child’s school and promote its positive features throughout the wider community. Encourage your child to take pride in their school through your example.
- **Attend school activities** such as open days, concerts, sports events and celebrations. Invite other members of the community along as well.
- **Consult with your child’s teacher** about practical ways that you can assist both at home and at school.

Positive parent participation in school and learning is a proven criterion for student success. One practical way to assist your child as a learner is to become actively involved in his or her school-life.
Our campuses have begun the year with great enthusiasm! We trust that you and your child/ren have settled into the school routines and are looking forward to engaging in all the activities that will be taking place throughout the year. The positive spirit of faith, wisdom and compassion at our College is a true indication of the success we experience at our campuses.

**SCHOOL BANKING**

This week at Assembly a BankSA staff member will be addressing the students, parents and caregivers regarding how important it is to learn to save which is an important part of every child’s life.

For the start of Term 1, BankSA is offering all students who open a new Incentive Saver Account via the School a $10 Gift Voucher, which will be deposited into your child’s account once opened.

All children under 13 years who open an account with BankSA will also receive a Digger the Wombat Money Box, LittleSavers Calculator, LittleSavers Library Bag and a School Bank Wallet. LittleSavers is BankSA’s special saving club for kids and it’s all about having fun and learning how to save! Take a look at the LittleSavers website littlesavers.com.au

This offer is available until 30 March 2012 and is for new customers only. For more details or to collect a BankSA Application Pack, please call into the school office.

We have school banking with other bank agencies in Whyalla, namely Alliance One Credit Union and Commonwealth Bank (OLHCC); which families are encouraged to continue now children are back to school. This occurs every Tuesday, with children lodging their banking at the front office.

**SPORTS DAY**

Sports Day for the primary campuses will be held on Friday, May 11 (Week 3) of Term 2. Please put this date in your diary. The venue for the primary campus Sports Day is Jubilee Park.

The Year 7 students are in the process of preparing themselves for the House Captain nominations which will be taking place at the end of this week. The results will be announced early next week and students will be receiving their House Captain badge at the Opening College Mass next Friday, February 24.

Yours in Faith, Wisdom & Compassion,

Eleni Vailas
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

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**LAP VOLUNTEERS**

The Learning Assistance Program known as LAP is once again looking for LAP volunteers. LAP is a social interaction program that supports students in their journey of learning.

The skills that you need to be a LAP volunteer are patience, a listening ear and one hour per week.

Like all volunteers in schools you will need to have a current Catholic police check. (These are free for school volunteers.) Both primary campuses run this program. If you are interested in being a LAP volunteer please contact the College.

The LAP Coordinators are:

*Heather Guest*
OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CAMPUS
8649 2077

*Helen Holland*
ST TERESA’S CAMPUS
8645 8381

**LITERACY TIPS FOR PARENTS**

Below are some significant stages in Literacy development and some simple ways that you as a parent can help your child’s Reading and Writing.

The Child:

- Understands that print goes from left to right
- Is learning the sounds and letters of the alphabet
- Knows simple words such as like, the, and, Mum etc.
- Begins to understand that print carries a message
- Starts to read signs, food packages and other everyday items
- Likes being read to and has favourite books and stories
- Maybe reading simple stories

Things you could do:

- Read out loud and talk about stories every day
- Visit your local library regularly. Look out for songs and rhymes on CD or DVD
- Choose books which are repetitive and full of rhyme, as well as those with longer sentences and more complex illustrations
- Read and say Nursery Rhymes and sing songs together
- Talk with your child’s teacher often about your child’s work
- Let your child see you reading for fun and work
- Talk about how you use reading in your day
- Take time each day to talk about school and share your day
- Encourage your child to try simple writing tasks (shopping lists, cards, letters, etc.)
- Listen to your child

PRIMARY LITERACY TEAM
LITERACY PARENT INFORMATION EVENINGS

In order to promote an increased understanding of Literacy skills in the early years, we will be presenting a series of workshops in Weeks 5, 6, 7 and 8 on Thursday evenings for all Samaritan College families.

These workshops will start at 7:00pm in the Our Lady Help of Christians Campus library and will be approximately one and a half hours in duration. A cup of tea or coffee will conclude each evening.

The program is as follows:

**Thursday, March 1:**
Speaking and Listening

**Thursday, March 8:**
The Reading Process/Helping your Child to Read

**Thursday, March 15:**
Understanding the Writing Process

**Thursday, March 22:**
Numeracy

Please indicate your interest in attending these sessions by completing the following response slip and return it to your school campus as soon as possible. Thank you

Lou Whitehouse and Rebecca Sinclair

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SECONDARY CAMPUS NEWS

**HOMEWORK**

Students might be starting to feel the pressure of due dates with their many different subjects starting to look towards collecting work. We acknowledge that there are other aspects to a child’s life and that there needs to be a balance between these aspects. Staff have been asked to try and ensure that their students are not doing more than the time indicated through the Student Diary. If your child is feeling anxious about the amount of homework that they are getting they should be talking with their caregroup teachers. A student who completes the diary, indicating the time taken allows the caregroup teachers to monitor the situation.

Whilst Year Level Coordinators try to monitor it, there is probably an ebb and flow affect with homework and what students deem to be "assessable" work. It is recommended that students understand the assessment criteria that the teacher is using and that they are addressing those criteria.

**STAFF DUTY**

A reminder to parents that the staff are not on duty in the morning until 8:20am. This means that students who arrive before this time are not supervised. After 8:20am staff begin yard duty as normal. There are some areas that are designated out of bounds in a morning. The bike rack and around the Year 10 classrooms are two such areas where students should not congregate.

**BIKES**

Great to see an almost full bike rack at the Saint John's Campus. What isn't great is how many are left unlocked. Like valuables within the classroom, the College is put in a very difficult situation in trying to assist students if property is stolen and they have chosen not to lock it or use the locker they are provided with. A reminder too that scooter riders are required to wear helmets.

**SACE MERIT CEREMONY**

On Tuesday, three of our 2011 Year 12 students were presented with their Merit awards at Government House for their outstanding efforts in their SACE last year. Kristina Kotsomitis (Research Project), Clare Lynch (Psychology) and Ruby Tonkin (Special Award for overall excellence) were accompanied by Year 12 Teacher and SOSE Coordinator, Rachel Gould. Congratulations!

John Lyons
ACTING DEPUTY PRINCIPAL
COMMUNITY NEWS

STAGE 2 SUBJECT DEADLINES

Students and their parents are advised that all Stage2 enrolments must be finalised by Wednesday, March 28. This means that Year 12 students will not be permitted to move classes after this date. Any students who are considering changing subjects need to complete and return the relevant paperwork as soon as possible. Students are also reminded that latecomers are expected to catch up on all class work and assignments – teachers are not permitted to reduce the volume of work simply because a student has come into a subject late. These dates and policies are set down by the SACE Board and so cannot be changed by the College.

Tanya Gibson
DIRECTOR OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE

All school students, aged under 18 years, are eligible for oral health care with the School Dental Service. All dental care is free for preschool clients.

Children who are dependants/holders of the following concessions are eligible to receive free dental care:
- Centrelink Concession Card
- Department of Veterans’ Affairs Pensioner Concession Card
- School Card
- Medicare Teen Dental Voucher (A new voucher will be issued at the beginning of each year and expires on December 31 for those children eligible).

For primary and secondary school students who are not dependant of/holders of the above concessions, a fee will apply for each course of general dental care. Teen Dental Vouchers can help offset this fee for students between the ages of 12-18 years.

Please contact the Whyalla School Dental Clinic, phone 8645 2377 to access care. The clinic is open Monday to Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm.

For Emergency advice after hours please contact 1800 022 222 - Healthdirect Australia.

CANTENE ROSTERS

Monday, February 20 – Friday, February 24

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<td>ST TERESA'S CAMPUS</td>
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<td>Tue: Holly Stainer</td>
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<td>Wed: Michelle Bolitho</td>
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<td>Thu: Sam Custance</td>
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<td>Fri: no lunch orders - College Mass</td>
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<th>OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CAMPUS</th>
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<td>Thu: Sheree Cleary</td>
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<td>Fri: Sunny Chung</td>
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<th>SAINT JOHN'S CAMPUS</th>
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<td>Mon: Judith Hill</td>
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<td>Tue: Kerry Azzopardi</td>
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<td>Wed: Melinda Coad</td>
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<td>Thu: Chrisoula Karssen</td>
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<td>Fri: Leanne Setford</td>
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Please note there will be no lunch orders on Friday, February 24 for the PRIMARY CAMPUSES as we will be attending the beginning of year Mass at Saint John's Campus.

6 of 6  February 16, 2012
Thursday 16th Feb 2012

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to another exciting year for Samaritan College as we commence the 2012 school year.

As you are aware, the Opening School Mass will be held on Friday 24th February.

The students are expected to attend and families are most welcome to join us for this celebration in the 70th year of Catholic Education in Whyalla.

Please note the following arrangements to assist us with ensuring the safety of all students and a smooth start to the organisation of this celebration.

Parents from the Primary Campuses are asked to drop their children off at Saint John’s Campus by 8:45 a.m, where teachers will take the class role and assemble in designated area prior to the Mass. The Mass will begin at 9:30 a.m. ending approximately at 11:00 a.m. Students are required to wear their sports uniform.

For ease of traffic congestion the Primary Campuses have designated drop off points which are:

- OLHC Campus - students are to be dropped off on Norrie Avenue and assemble outside the SJ Campus Gymnasium where they will meet their teachers.
- ST Campus - students are to be dropped off on Gowrie Avenue and assemble on the SJ Basketball Courts where they will meet their teachers.

As parking at Saint John’s Campus is limited, parents are advised that on this occasion it is necessary to restrict parking on Saint John’s Campus grounds to staff.

Upon completion the students will eat their recess with an SJC buddy class and play some games. After Recess all students will assemble at the Grandstand for a whole college photograph. After the activities the children from the primary campuses will be transported back to their own campus by bus. Permission for transport between campuses of your child has been obtained through the Student Information and Medical Details Form which you have already completed. (If you have not completed this form please complete and return it promptly)

Please note: There will be no lunch orders on this day.

We are looking forward to a wonderful school, parish and community celebration to mark the beginning of the school year and the celebration of Catholic Education in Whyalla; one school, one community and one family.

Yours sincerely

Bernie Meixner  Christine Duffield  Rebecca Sinclair

Religious Education Team
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
TO BE HELD THURSDAY FEBRUARY 23 - 7:30 PM
IN THE LECTURE THEATRE – SAINT JOHN’S CAMPUS
All parents and caregivers are invited to the Annual General Meeting.
It is an ideal time to gain an insight into the administrative dimension of the College.
Duration: Approximately 1 hour - Supper Provided

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

COLLEGE BOARD: There are 4 positions available on the College Board for a
2 year term. (with a maximum of 3 consecutive terms)

The responsibilities of parents elected to any of the above positions are great. Membership of either the Board
or Parent Community executive involves commitment in terms of time, energy and enthusiasm. At the same
time the College values highly the efforts of such people and their involvement also brings its own rewards.
No particular experience or skill is necessary. It is a great way to learn about your College.

We warmly welcome nominations from anyone who believes they have the enthusiasm and time. Parents
should feel free to nominate others or themselves. If nominating another person please have them sign the
form as an acceptance of their nomination.

Elections are held at the AGM. Please return all nomination forms to Ms Karen McGinnis, College Board
Secretary, at Saint John’s Campus by Friday, February 17.

Damien Judd & Terissa Shepherd
CO-PRINCIPALS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - NOMINATION FORM

Name:  .........................................................................................
(insert person you wish to nominate)
Parent of:  .........................................................................................
Signature:  .........................................................................................  Date:  .........................
I nominate  .........................................................................................  to be a member of the Board.
I accept the above nomination.
Signature:  .........................................................................................  Date:  .........................