Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Hopefully this newsletter makes it to you just before two very important College events. Tonight is the College AGM. All parents and families of the College are welcome to attend. Held in the Lecture Theatres at the secondary campus from 7:30pm, it is a relatively short presentation of the past year plus what is in store for the future. Nibbles and drinks are provided.

The other major event is the Opening College Mass tomorrow, again at the secondary campus. To have over 1100 Samaritan students together with staff and parents all on our oval to celebrate Mass is a very special occasion. The Mass is central to what we do as Catholics and this celebration is a great launch for the year. So many students and staff are involved in bringing all the aspects of the mass together - a real showcase of their gifts and talents.

MEDICAL & PERSONAL INFORMATION
It is hoped that all forms handed out at the start of the year have been returned by you to your relevant campus. This information is vital for the safety of your child. Not just from a medical point of view but from a contact and privacy aspect too. If you have not seen these forms please contact the College. It is very important we now have this information.

COLLEGE HALL
Technically the hall is not ready for outside bookings yet. There is still some unfinished work that would impact on an outside group wishing to use the hall. The hall, like all buildings, has a maximum occupancy. For some whole school events, it would mean we would breach that maximum if we used the hall.

SCHOOL FUNDING
You may have heard references to the Gonski Report in the media this week. At this stage, we know very little about the effects on all schools in terms of the funding of education. Catholic education in South Australia sees the spirit of the Report as very positive with a focus on students and schools across Australia, rather than being polarised between systems and sectors. The implications of this report for South Australian Catholic schools will only become clear as more detail is developed, and further discussion takes place between stakeholders. There is still much work to be done to ensure all children receive a fair and equitable share of the funding required to implement recommendations made in the report and that families are kept informed.

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Greetings as 2012 is well into its second month!

On Ash Wednesday we begin the season of Lent.

In the words of Sister Verna Holyhead, 'Ash Wednesday calls us into the Lenten weeks of keeping warm the embers of our Christian discipleship through a renewed commitment to prayer, to fasting and to alms giving, so that the breath of the Easter Jesus may kindle the fire of our baptism and “Alleluia” may truly be our song of praise for what God has done, and is doing and will do for us in Christ Jesus’. (Sowing the Seed)

Here is an opportunity to make a difference in our families, our community and our world. Do I believe that through prayer, fasting and alms giving I can create a better world?

By taking time each day in prayer to acknowledge our dependency on God, by reflecting and listening to Jesus’s message in the Gospel and sharing our thoughts and prayers with our family, and so encouraging one another to live in love as Jesus did.

By fasting I take the focus off myself so I can place my ‘eyes’ on God and others. I find ways to do without something that I like or I do something for another that will show I care for them.

By alms giving I am helping those suffering from poverty and disadvantage in our world. In our parish we can do this through Caritas Lenten Share Packs. Caritas helps people in 35 countries around the world.

Aren't we making the world a better place when we take time for our God who loves us unconditionally and when we share that love with others?

Let us support and help each other during this Lent so that at Easter we may truly sing Alleluia and give thanks for God’s goodness to each of us.

Fr Helen Mills
ON BEHALF OF THE PARISH TEAM.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>WEEKEND MASS TIMES</th>
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<tr>
<td>St Teresa’s Church</td>
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<td>Saturday 7:00pm</td>
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<td>Sunday 8:30am</td>
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We have now entered the Liturgical season of Lent. This is a period of going without (fasting), prayer and giving to the needy. In recent times people preparing for Easter during Lent may choose to take on some charitable action and work for good in place of self denial of favourite foods or undesirable habits.

Whatever we do and however we prepare, we are reminding ourselves we are human and we do stray from the path set down for us by God. Because we are human we do make bad choices and we can fall into a way of life that is not affirming of ourselves or others. We need to be reminded that all life is a gift from God and the way we behave may not reflect the divine in our everyday interactions.

So during Lent, let’s get out the broom and sweep out the cobwebs of selfishness, attachment to material things, short temperedness and taking others for granted.

In the Australian Catholics Magazine (Summer 2012) you received last week there is a wonderful article by Brian Doyle. Mr Doyle talks about a lot of things we can do to ‘be good’. Each of these suggestions would be a wonderful focus for us during Lent. Mr Doyle suggests we pick up our wet towels and hang them up saving others doing this for us. Be nice to the cashier at the supermarket even if they do seem slow, because remember, Christ lives in them also.

If a police officer does pull you over for texting while you are driving, remember it is your fault, not theirs and so act with dignity. If you see someone in need, offer your most precious commodity of time and help out.

There are many ways we can prepare for Easter during Lent. Do take the time to reflect on your own humaness and take a new broom to your life making yourself a reflection of the sacredness in you.

The following link is some further interesting reading on what we can do to prepare for Easter during Lent.


Bernie Meixner
APRIM
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 9:30 am and children from the primary campuses will need to be dropped at Saint John’s Campus by 8:30 am. For more information on the logistics of the day for parents of primary aged children, see the note that was sent home last week. 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)

TO PARENTS WITH CHILDREN ATTENDING OUR STATE SCHOOLS

Your children are invited to a workshop to prepare for Easter at Our Lady’s Church on Monday, March 19, from 4:00 pm - 7:15 pm. A meal is included. Parents are asked to join us at 7:00 pm for a prayer prepared by the children. For further information or if your children are able to attend contact Gai Travers on 8649 3154 or Sr Helen on 0409 428 978.

FROM THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF WHYALLA

PARENT COMMUNITY NEWS

We have a booking for the Advanced Life Photography Family Portraits again for this year.

This has proved very successful in the past with many of our College families taking up the offer of a beautiful, framed family portrait for the value price of just $20.

We need a minimum of 30 families to hold the photography session, and these spaces will fill fast! This offer is open to all College families and any friends and family outside the College community as well. Invite everyone!

The College is the recipient of the $20 fee for your Family Portrait, so this aids the fundraising efforts of the Parent Community.

Date: Saturday, March 24
Venue: Our Lady Help of Christians Campus in the Vessey Unit.

Appointments can be made by phoning Tania Taylor on 0412 953 770. You will then be given information regarding how to make payment – as payment is required before the appointment date and time. No money can be accepted on the photography day.

Please see the flyer enclosed with today’s newsletter for further information, or call any of the campus offices. Please also pass on the second tear off voucher to your family and friends to invite them to have a beautiful family portrait taken.

Tania Taylor
ON BEHALF OF THE PARENT COMMUNITY

SCHOOL COUNSELLING SERVICE

School counsellors James Rigg and Jane Cowie from Centacare, are based at Samaritan College to provide support and counselling to students. They are present each day from 9 am-2:30 pm at Saint John’s Campus; Mondays and Fridays at Our Lady Help of Christians Campus from 9 am-2:30 pm; and Wednesdays at St Teresa’s Campus from 9 am–2:30 pm. James and Jane’s role is to support students with a range of issues including: conflict resolution; bullying; stress; time-management; depression; anxiety; grief and loss; self-esteem; anger management and much more. If you believe that your child would benefit from seeing a school counsellor, please contact the front office to book an appointment or ask to speak to the school counsellor.

February 23, 2012 3 of 9
STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Congratulations to the students who have been elected by their peers as House Captains and to the Student Representative Council for 2012. These students will be presented to the College community and receive their badge in recognition of this achievement at the Opening College Mass to be held on Friday, February 24 at 9:30 am (SJc).

PRIMARY HOUSE CAPTAINS

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>RICE</td>
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<td>Brandon D</td>
<td>Mackenzie B</td>
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<td>Jared I</td>
<td>Ben S</td>
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<td>Taylah S</td>
<td>Madeline F</td>
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<td>Georgia T</td>
<td>Holly S</td>
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<td>BENEDICT</td>
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<td>Corey D</td>
<td>Eddie M</td>
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<td>Tom F</td>
<td>Connor P</td>
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<td>Ch arma P</td>
<td>Abbie K</td>
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<td>Emily S</td>
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<td>MACKILLOP</td>
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<td>Aaron R</td>
<td>Isaac C</td>
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<td>Riley M</td>
<td>Simon G</td>
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<td>Lana P</td>
<td>Shannan H</td>
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<td>Makaela W</td>
<td>Meg S</td>
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PRIMARY CAMPUS NEWS

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<td>Grace A</td>
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<td>Candice S</td>
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<td>Summer B</td>
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<td>R/1 Hancock</td>
<td>Luke M</td>
<td>R/1 Kuchel/Davies</td>
<td>Thomas K</td>
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<td>Nathan W</td>
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<td>Patrick M</td>
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<td>Ciara F</td>
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<td>Sara P</td>
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<td>Phoebe R</td>
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<td>R/1 Francis</td>
<td>Hanno H</td>
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<td>Amalia G</td>
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<td>Dale M</td>
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<td>Max S</td>
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<td>Maya P</td>
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<td>1/2 Hearne</td>
<td>Jarrod E</td>
<td>2/3 Reed/Judd</td>
<td>Callum J</td>
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<td>Jake W</td>
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<td>Aimee K</td>
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<td>Mackenzie S</td>
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<td>2/3 Ness</td>
<td>Sean O</td>
<td>4/5 Baverstock</td>
<td>Hayden G</td>
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<td>Hannah B</td>
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<td>Jordan M</td>
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<td>Richelle K</td>
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<td>Georgia S</td>
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<td>Radha T</td>
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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.

Please note the following dates for the various evenings have been changed. The program is as follows:

**Thursday, March 8:**
Speaking and Listening

**Thursday, March 15:**
The Reading Process/Helping your Child to Read

**Thursday, March 22:**
Understanding the Writing Process

**Thursday, March 29:**
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

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

The Primary students will be participating in Clean Up Australia Day for Schools on **Friday, March 2**.

We will be cleaning up the school property and the outside boundary of both Primary Campuses. Students are encouraged to bring gloves so that rubbish can be handled safely.

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

Yours in Faith, Wisdom & Compassion,

Eleni Vailas
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL
TIPS FOR DEVELOPING READERS

Developing readers need adult support to encourage and further develop independent reading. This simple guide will provide adults with strategies to support the reader.

Encourage children to monitor themselves by checking on:
- Does it make sense?
- Does it sound and look right?

TIPS FOR OLDER INDEPENDENT READERS

As students move into middle and upper primary classes they will become responsible for choosing their own independent reading texts. The strategy below can be used as a guide to appropriate book selection. For students beginning this stage, practising this strategy with an adult is recommended.

Students need to:
- Turn to the first page of the book
- Hold out their hand with fingers extended
- Begin reading. If there is a word they do not know, they need to turn down one finger
- If all five fingers within the first page have been turned down then the chosen book is too hard.

Note: This method is suitable for fiction books.

Assisting with reading at this stage does not stop with this strategy. It is not just the very young children who like to read with and be read to by an adult.

PRIMARY LITERACY TEAM

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Football Federation of South Australia is setting up a free program for girls under the age of 14 to play soccer in a non competitive environment in Whyalla. Any girl under the age of 14 is invited to come along and take part in a mini soccer tournament over an 8 week period. Girls are welcome to come along and play for free at Whyalla Croatia Soccer Club every Friday night from 4:30pm – 6:00pm. For further details please contact Andy Bateman on 0428 850 826.

Gareth Molyneux
PE COORDINATOR (PRIMARY)
This week we enter into the period of Lent, a time of preparation in our Christian lives. Lent starts on Ash Wednesday and finishes at Easter. Traditionally it is a period of time where Christians try to follow the example of Jesus in the desert (Luke 4:1). They might choose to give up something for this period. At Samaritan College we encourage each other to look at the needs of others throughout the world and to make a conscious decision to offer support through things like Project Compassion. One of the messages shared at our Ash Wednesday Liturgy was “If we want peace, we must work for justice.” What action are we going to take for justice? How are you going to make a difference in someone else’s life this Lent?

GATHERING OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Our Year 10 and 11 student representatives have been invited to gather with other student leaders from Caritas College and Saint Marks College. The aim of the gathering is to explore the notion of justice and to look at ways that our schools can promote justice for all. I look forward to hearing what they have learnt from their day and to explore actions that the College may take for justice.

OPENING SCHOOL MASS

Tomorrow the entire College gathers for the Opening School Mass. This will be held on the Oval at the Saint John’s Campus, weather permitting. It is a morning of celebration with activities after the mass in which the secondary students will engage in fun games with the primary students. The canteen will be closed for the morning so the students will need to bring their own recess. Normal lessons will resume at approximately 11:40am.

STUDENT ABSENTEE

If your child is going to be away or needs to leave the College during the day, please contact the school or provide a note in the diary. Students who arrive late to school should have a note briefly outlining a reason. If they arrive during the time of morning caregroup they should go straight to class where their teachers will record a late arrival and sight the note.

SPENCER GULF ATHLETICS

On Friday, March 2, the Athletics team from Samaritan College will be going to Port Lincoln to compete against the other Catholic Secondary Schools in the Port Pirie Diocese. Miss Howell our PE and Sports Coordinator has put a team together that should compete well in the track and field events. I’d like to acknowledge the extra efforts and dedication of both students and staff with the early morning training sessions. Well done and good luck in Port Lincoln.

John Lyons

ACTING DEPUTY PRINCIPAL (SECONDARY)

ATTENTION PARENTS OF YEAR 11 STUDENTS

Is your son or daughter enrolled in Year 11 Legal Studies? Are you interested in learning more about South Australia’s legal system? Then consider accompanying us on our annual Law Week camp in Adelaide early next term (May 13-16). We are looking for an energetic and enthusiastic father, uncle or grandad to join us on our four-day camp as we visit various law courts, Parliament House, Government House, the Police Museum and the Old Adelaide Gaol. Your accommodation, transport and entrance fees will be paid for, and all breakfasts are provided. If you are interested and have a Catholic Education police clearance or are willing to have one (at the College’s expense), please contact me on 8645 8568 or via your son or daughter.

Tanya Gibson

LEGAL STUDIES TEACHER

TRAINEESHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR YEAR 10, 11, 12 STUDENTS

Administration traineeship opportunity for school leaver working 25+ hours per week, whilst studying Certificate III in Administration.

School based Hospitality Traineeship positions available, students will work towards completing Certificate III in Hospitality.

If you have an interest in the above positions, please contact Mr Baker or hand in a resume and cover letter stating the position of choice.

Ryan Baker

PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE 2012

The Premier’s Reading Challenge is a literacy engagement program that was introduced by the Premier in 2004 to:

• Encourage students to read more books and enjoy reading
• Improve literacy levels

The Challenge requires students to read 12 books between the beginning of the school year and early September. The Challenge is open to all students from Reception to Year 12. For FAQs, more information about which books have been chosen this year and how prizes will be awarded, visit your campus library or visit the website www.premiersreadingchallenge.sa.edu.au

Whilst at school, students can access the link via the school intranet. It can be found by following the Library and Research tab to the Online Databases section. Participants in Years 8 and 9 will be provided with support in their English classes.

Happy reading!

Maresa Lyons
YEAR 12 MERIT CEREMONY

Last Tuesday I was fortunate enough to travel to Adelaide for the SACE Merit Ceremony which recognises the outstanding achievements of students who completed their South Australian Certificate of Education in 2011.

It was a glorious day in Adelaide and the sun was shining! Students, parents and teachers from across the state, dressed in their best, were welcomed at Government House to celebrate those students who received perfect scores in their subject areas. Two students from Samaritan College were recognised for their A+ results: Clare Lynch for Psychology and Kristina Kotsomitis for Research Project. Both students were thrilled to collect their awards which were given to them by leaders in their respective fields of excellence.

At the same ceremony, twenty five students from across the state were recognised for their overall high achievement in the SACE. One of those students was our own Ruby Tonkin who proudly went up to shake the Governor’s hand, taking her place amongst some of South Australia’s highest achievers.

A fantastic morning was had by all. It was a pleasure to witness these three exceptional students represent the College and Whyalla so proudly. I have no doubt that they, along with other members of their cohort, will continue to go on and achieve great things as they move into tertiary study.

Rachel Gould
RESEARCH PROJECT TEACHER

COMMUNITY NEWS

A MESSAGE FROM THE WHYALLA COUNCIL

Fight the Bite – Mosquitoes can be more than a Nuisance

Mosquito breeding and in turn mosquito numbers are abundant again this year both in South Australia and interstate. There is no vaccine and no cure for mosquito borne diseases such as Ross River or Barmah Forest virus which can leave the infected person feeling tired or weak with joint pain, swelling or stiffness and flu-like symptoms such as fever, chills and headaches. Diagnosis is made by a doctor using a blood test. The only known method to protect against mosquito borne disease is to adopt personal protection strategies.

Protect yourself and your family by:

• Wearing long, loose-fitting clothing
• Use insect repellent containing DEET (diethyl toluamide) or Picardin
• Mosquitoes breed in still water so empty containers that hold water once a week such as tyres, pots, drums and pot plant drip trays and clean up and dispose of rubbish, recyclables and other unwanted items that may hold water.
• Place mosquito proof mesh on doors and windows.
• Keep gutters in good repair and regularly remove leaves and debris so that pools of water do not form.
• Keep swimming pools maintained and disinfected

Plaza Youth Drop-In

Plaza Youth Centre will be offering a free drop in every Wed-Thurs 2pm-5pm, Fri 3:30pm-7:30pm and alternate Saturdays 4pm-8pm for young people aged 11-25 years. So if you are bored and would like to meet other young people or just hang out and play xBOX, basketball, arcade racing games, eight ball and have something to eat, please drop in. Enquiries please call Joanne Jones on 8645 3999.

Canteen Rosters

Monday, February 27 – Friday, March 2

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<tr>
<th>ST TERESA’S CAMPUS</th>
<th>OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CAMPUS</th>
<th>SAINT JOHN’S CAMPUS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Karen Taylor</td>
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<td>Tue</td>
<td>Katelin Morgan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Marcia Francis</td>
<td>Antonetta Rogers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>Mad Foran</td>
<td>Lisbeth Fernandez</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
<td>Janette Leevres</td>
<td>Sunny Chung</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. Saint John’s Campus Canteen will be closed at RECESS.

Annette Cameron  
CANTENE MANAGER

Rose Cassar  
CANTENE MANAGER

Marg Coad  
CANTENE MANAGER
Dear Parents/Caregivers

Welcome back to another school year at Samaritan College. It is really hard to believe that it is once again a MUSICAL YEAR. It is with great pleasure and excitement that we announce that the Samaritan College musical for 2012 will be ‘Annie Junior’. I am sure that many of you will be aware of this production as it is a real favourite worldwide. It tells the story of Orphan Annie and her struggle to find a real family.

It will be performed at the Middleback Theatre on November 8, November 9 (morning and afternoon sessions for Whyalla Schools), and on Saturday, November 10, an evening performance for school parents and friends and the Whyalla community.

Auditions for ‘Annie Junior’ will take place at various campuses in Weeks 6, 7 & 8. Week 6 at St Teresa’s Campus, Week 7 Saint John’s Campus and Week 8 Our Lady Help of Christians (days to be advised). I invite all students from Year 3 to Year 12 to audition. There may be a few roles available for some younger students in our production. I will approach and discuss these with parents and students as these become apparent. Auditions will include Lead Roles, Lesser Parts, Dancers and Choir.

If your child is interested in auditioning please:

- Return the response slip below to Winnie Fitzgerald at St Teresa’s, Melinda Gray at Our Lady Help of Christians, and caregroup teachers at Saint John’s Campus who will then forward these to the front office for me to pick up by next Wednesday afternoon, February 29 (Week 5).
- Encourage your child to write their name on the charts pinned up outside the music rooms at the various campuses. Charts will be available at the beginning of Week 6 for an audition time of their choice, and remember to turn up on time.

There will be two rehearsals every week, with a few Saturday or Sunday rehearsals as the performances get closer. Rehearsals will be on Wednesday during school (time to be advised) and on Thursday afternoon after school from 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm.

The children will need to realise that the commitment level has to be high as the schools paying to attend will be expecting to see a quality performance from our College. The cost of performing a musical such as this is huge and varied from sets, to lights, to costumes, advertising, performance rights, theatre hire etc, etc.

Anyone who has been involved in any of our musicals understands what a wonderfully positive and unique experience it is. Please encourage your child to share their gifts and talents.

Looking forward to a fantastic year.

Yours in the Arts

Winnie Fitzgerald and the Production Team

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MUSICAL PRODUCTION RESPONSE SLIP

Family Name (Please print) ..........................................................

My child/children wish/wishes to audition for the musical production ‘Annie Junior’

The parts for audition are: (put your child’s name next to role)

Major role in the choir ..........................................................

Dancer ........................................................... lesser role (some speaking) ..........................................................

Signed: ........................................................................... (parent/caregiver)