Dear Parents, Grandparents and Caregivers,

This week we have reflected on the well known parable of the return of the prodigal son, and the one that comes before it; - to seek the lost sheep that has strayed from the other 99.  We spend much time tending all our sheep and assisting the ones that might need further encouragement to remain ‘with’ the mainstream flock, whether it be with classroom behaviour, using learning opportunities well or needing extra help.  Sometimes a child will need more to balance the scales of equity.  Meeting the needs of a diverse population is something we strive for and can truly acknowledge that we are doing it well.  As with the prodigal son and his father, the action was borne of unconditional love for his child.  As educators we have a role, secondary to parents as the primary caregivers, to fulfil our vocations through providing love and respect for those in our care.

CHILDHOOD ILLNESSES

As there are siblings across the three campuses, we are notifying all families that there has been a case of hand, foot and mouth disease, (HFMD)(coxsackievirus) on the secondary campus. It is a viral infection and is not linked to the foot and mouth disease that affects animals. HFMD is mainly seen in children under the age of ten or in young adults. It is easily spread from one person to another. Most people have had HFMD by the time they are adults. It rarely causes further complications and is very rarely fatal. Symptoms usually start three to seven days after catching the infection and can last between seven to 10 days. Admission to hospital is rarely needed. The common signs and symptoms include:

- high temperature (fever)
- sore throat
- small blisters on the inside of the mouth, the sides of the tongue, palms of the hands, fingers, soles of the feet and nappy area (the blisters should not be itchy like chickenpox blisters).
- poor appetite
- drinking and eating can be painful because of the mouth blisters
- tiredness

Children need to stay at home until blisters have healed, and families are advised to see a doctor. Please stress to your children the value of washing their hands throughout the day.

Tomorrow is the National Day of Action Against Bullying. You may have already read about various strategies and tips in our current and previous newsletters, especially in regard to cyber bullying. Amongst all the advice, our best recommendation is to encourage you to immediately speak with your child’s teacher if you are ever concerned about your child’s safety and welfare. Becoming aware of situations early can often greatly assist in dealing with the bullying behaviours. The College has qualified counsellors on all campuses to help students and families.

“We had to celebrate and rejoice.....for he was lost and has been found.” Luke 15: 11-32.
Parish News

This Lent has been very different for me as four weeks ago I had a hip replacement in Adelaide. After 5 days in hospital I went to Calvary Rehabilitation for a week. It was during those days that I met some interesting people who shared some of their own faith journeys with me. My physiotherapist who spoke of becoming a Catholic and having a child at 40 and the concerns she had and how blessed she now feels to have that son. The occupational therapist who, in her early 30’s, lost her husband suddenly after a short illness. I said I would pray for her future life and she then shared with me how she found God in that difficult time. Another nurse who was not a Catholic, but who was sending her children to a catholic school wanted to tell me how good the school was and how she always attended the liturgies and how helpful she found them. Others wanted to ask questions about the new Pope and even asked if I would get a vote! Many spoke of attending catholic schools and some others had connections with Whyalla. Even though I was not working in the Parish people wanted to share something of their faith journey. I was grateful for the wonderful care I received during those days that helped with my recovery.

Back in Whyalla I have received care from parishioners who have helped me in many ways. For me, not being able to drive and to have to depend on people is very humbling. Not being able to do some of the things I can usually do at times has been very frustrating – I have been mindful of people who have to live with a disability and need the support of others. I thank those people who have helped me in many ways. This week I have started back at the Parish for a few hours each day which has been good.

As we move closer to Holy week and Easter there are many things in the Parish to prepare and plan for.

Next week some parishioners will attend the Diocesan Assembly in Port Pirie. These days are always a great opportunity for us to meet with other Catholics from around the diocese and to attend the Chrism Mass at which Bishop Greg blesses the Holy Oils that will be used for Baptism, Confirmation and Anointing of the Sick in our Parish during the coming year.

Father Jim Celebrates his 60th Birthday on March 20. Next Sunday, March 17 at the 8:30am Mass at St Teresa’s and the 10:30am Mass at OLHC we will have the opportunity to have Morning Tea with Fr Jim and to celebrate his Birthday. I hope many parishioners will join us at Mass to give thanks for the gift of life he has so generously shared with us.

This week we are mindful of the Cardinals meeting in Rome to select our new Pope. We pray that the Holy Spirit will inspire these men as they meet to select our Pope who will lead our church through this age of many challenges.

Sr Cheryle Thomson
FOR THE PARISH TEAM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEKEND MASS TIMES</th>
<th>St Teresa’s Church</th>
<th>Our Lady Help of Christians Church</th>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
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Religious Dimension

God is waiting for us this Lent.

Take a moment to look at your fingerprints. We are told they are unique. You share them with no one who lives or who has ever lived. Let this remind us that God wanted you, specifically you, to come into this world. In this season of Lent let it also remind us that God grieves for you, specifically you when you are hurt, and misses you, specifically you, when you turn away.

In this week’s Gospel we hear of the Prodigal Son who turned away from his father to pursue other things in life away from his home. When the son finally comes to his senses and returns home he is welcomed by a loving father who welcomes him with open arms.

The father, like God is not vengeful when we sin. God is not an accountant who tallies up our sins against our good deeds or a law keeper waiting to punish us when we err.

God is not vengeful or angry but loving and rejoices when we who have sinned come back to the Father/Creator.

Lent is a good time to come home. We all stray. We live in a world that often calls us away from God. But God knows each of us by our fingerprint, knows when we turn away, and still stands waiting for us to return, scanning the horizon, maybe weeping, hoping to see us turn back, looking for a chance to run toward us and embrace us once again.

Excerpt taken from www.gpbs.com.au

Bernie Meixner
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL IN RELIGIOUS IDENTITY AND MISSION
Dear parents and guardians of Indigenous Students of Samaritan College,

My name is Mrs Veena Raymond but most of you will know me as Veena Gollan. I previously worked with the Indigenous Education Team based in the Catholic Education Office in Adelaide. I would like to acknowledge the Traditional owners of this country on which the Samaritan College campuses are located. My cultural background is Ngarrindjeri, Kaurna and Boandik. I would like to take this opportunity to say how exciting this role will be for me. Developing strong partnerships with families is the key to successful outcomes for each of your children. I take this opportunity for families to be able to feel free to meet with me informally as a means of support and collaboration for your child at Samaritan College.

Veena Raymond
INDIGENOUS EDUCATION WORKER

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS
FOR
FATHER JIM

The Catholic Parish of Whyalla warmly invites members of the Samaritan College community to help celebrate Fr Jim’s birthday on Sunday, March 17 at 8:30am Mass at St Teresa’s Church or 10:30am Mass at OLHC Church. All are welcome to come and celebrate this special birthday for Fr Jim.

Bernie Meixner
ON BEHALF OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

TAKING A STAND TOGETHER 2013

Tomorrow (Friday, March 15) is the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence 2013. This year the theme is ‘Taking a Stand Together’. The push is for bystanders of bullying to take action! Here are some ways you can help out your friends or peers and take a stand against bullying:

• Tell them to stop
• Speak out when you feel unsafe
• Try to balance the situation (‘haven’t we all made that mistake..’, ‘I don’t think they meant it like that’)
• Be clear to your friends that you do not want to be involved in bullying (avoid spreading gossip, laughing at teasing)
• Tell an adult (teacher, parent, family friend) as they may be able to talk you through how you can help the person being bullied
• Support the person who is being bullied (ask if they are OK)
• Do not encourage bullying by giving the bully an audience (walk away from the situation)

If the bullying is occurring online or through text:

• Report to the social media site or to an adult if the bullying is a criminal matter
• Block people who harass, tease or begin fights online
• Do not forward messages or photos that are offensive or upsetting

From the school counsellors ©
EASTER EGG RAFFLE

Last week I spoke of the annual Easter Egg Raffle and invited each family to donate an Easter egg at one of the college campuses. Families and students have begun donating already, these will then be collated and raffled off. Tickets for the primary campus raffle draw have been sent home through the newsletter and will be sold by student leaders at Saint John’s Campus. The draw will take place on Holy Thursday. Your donation of an Easter egg or bunny can be made through the front office at your campus or through caregroup at Saint John's Campus.

YEAR 7 AQUATICS CAMP

A successful school camp has the power to transform and positively impact students in a very short space of time. They provide opportunities for students to live in shared accommodation, develop social skills and independence, challenge themselves and enjoy the benefits of an active lifestyle. The Pt Vincent Aquatics Camp certainly provides all of these opportunities for Samaritan students.

In Week 9, students from both campuses will be attending the Year 7 Aquatics Camp in Port Vincent. This is a great opportunity to build confidence and develop identity as well as draw on skills of resilience and independence away from home.

The students from the STC will be attending the camp from Sunday, March 24 until March 26 and the students from OLHCC will be attending from the March 26 until March 28.

Further information including medical forms will be coming home with your child this week. Please return these to your child’s teacher promptly.

CANTEEN ROSTERS

Canteen Rosters

Monday, March 18 – Friday, March 22

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<tr>
<th></th>
<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>Fiona Moffatt</td>
<td>no help required</td>
<td>Rosslyn Cruse</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Judith Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Judi Kneebone</td>
<td>no help required</td>
<td>Kerry Azzopardi</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Leanne Simpendorfer</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
<td>Donna Clark</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED</td>
<td>Mel Coad</td>
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<td>Thu</td>
<td>Richard Keatley</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED</td>
<td>Julie Rotherham</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
<td>Steff Woolford</td>
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Annette Cameron
Canteen Manager

Rose Cassar
Canteen Manager

Marg Coad
Canteen Manager

PRIMARY CAMPUS NEWS

EASTER EGG RAFFLE

HOUSE CAPTAINS ELECTED

Our Primary based students are now well into the term and have been able to get to know their teachers and each other well. Students have been offered a number of opportunities to share their skills and understanding in particular leadership skills. One way which we foster leadership skills at Samaritan College is through our Student Representative Council and another is through our House Captains. House Captains play a significant role in preparing their team for sports day and leading their peers throughout the year.

HOUSE CAPTAINS

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>OLHCC</th>
<th>STC</th>
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<tr>
<td>BENEDICT</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erin Salopek</td>
<td>Austin Wilson</td>
<td>Sophie Peden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jasmine Samu</td>
<td>Blake Cleary</td>
<td>Olivia A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophie Ward</td>
<td>Bill Bartel</td>
<td>Alice M</td>
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GOOD LUCK KIRSTY!

Kirsty Barrington, a teacher at our Our Lady Help of Christians Campus has been working part time whilst undertaking further study in the area of special education with the intention that this would become the area that she would seek a long term career. Kirsty was offered employment in this field and this week took up a new
During this, the 4th Week of Lent, we should pause to reflect on how we are using this time of fasting and penance. Am I living a simpler life, perhaps giving up a treat? Have I reached out to help someone who needs my support?

As a College, during Lent, we gave time to help our community through Clean-up Australia Day. Individually we have been asked to give to Project Compassion and in the lead up to Easter students are asked to support our charities through making donations of Easter eggs. Whilst participating in these activities we might not necessarily consider what our actions ultimately mean but through reflection we can, hopefully, recognise that we are certainly giving to others who have a greater need.

**EASTER BREAK**

School lessons will run as normal in the lead up to Easter, that is Holy Thursday will be a 7 lesson day! The lessons will be slightly shorter to enable an assembly and full school clean-up. After Easter school will resume as normal on Tuesday, April 2. We ask that families notify the school in writing, through the College diary, if their child is unable to attend school as normal.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

The Catholic Parish of Whyalla will once again be involved in the Stations of the Cross on the oval at the Saint John’s Campus. The Stations will start at 11:00am and progress around the oval. I invite all our families to come along and be part of this spiritual pilgrimage of prayer as the chief scenes of Christ’s suffering and death are presented.

**CHANGES TO OUR TIMETABLE**

When conducting a class at the senior end of secondary school time is of the upmost importance. There are many reasons within a term and semester where teachers and position elsewhere. We thank Kirsty for her contribution to our Samaritan College community, both as a student many years ago and more recently a staff member. We wish her the very best in her new role.

**FOYER DISPLAYS FROM R/1 CLASSES**

Thank you to R/1 Howard and R/1 Lewis for their fabulous foyer displays. Mrs Lewis and her class have illustrated the ways in which they enact the Samaritan College vision statement and Miss Howard’s class have illustrated the Easter story. Well worth stopping by the office to have a look.

Grace and blessings,

Georgia Tyson

**ACTING DEPUTY PRINCIPAL**

**COMPUTER CORNER**

**Early Years Literacy**

Some fun activities to help young children with reading and spelling.

**ABC Starfall- new activities including songs and maths**
http://www.starfall.com/

**Clifford interactive story books**
http://teacher.scholastic.com/clifford1/flash/phonics/index.htm

**Fishing with phonics**
http://www.professorgarfield.org/phonics/fishing/fishing.html

**kidcyber – easy to read items on topics for research**

**KS1 Bitesize games- literacy fun**
http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks1bitesize/literacy/

**The Little Animal Centre -words**
http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/laac/words/dgi.shtml

**Online phonics game**
http://www.genkienglish.net/phonicsgame1.htm

**Parts of the face**
http://www.amblesideprimary.com/ambleweb/clickon/infantzone/face.htm

**Picture match**
http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/picturematch/

**StoryPlace**
http://www.storyplace.org/preschool/preschool.asp?themeId=6

Jenny Kondylas

**ICT COORDINATOR**

(PRIMARY)

**LITURGY**

On Thursday March 21, Year 1/2 Foran will celebrate a class liturgy in St Teresa’s library at 9:30am.

Families are most welcome to attend. A morning tea will follow the liturgy. Families are asked to provide something simple to share and enjoy a community gathering after the liturgy.

**ASSEMBLY**

On Friday, March 22, Year 1/2 Raymond will host assembly at OLHC Campus at 12:10pm.

On Friday, March 22, R/Year 1 Harman will host an assembly at St Teresa’s Campus at 2:30pm.

Families are most welcome to come and be part of the assembly.

Bernie Meixner

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL IN RELIGIOUS IDENTITY AND MISSION**
students start to feel pressure because of missed contact lessons. The recent public holiday would be one such example, added to that the fact that students in Year 12 are on retreat for most of this week and suddenly we have lost a week of continuity in our teaching program. The College tries to balance the effect that losing classes has on our students and teachers by creating catch-up days or swapping the lessons that are run on half days, at the end of the term.

As such, students and parents should take note of the following alterations to their weeks, this might affect the uniform that students are allowed to wear as well as the classes that they would have on those days.

- Wednesday (20/3/13) Week 8, Term 1 becomes a catch-up Monday A
- Tuesday (26/3/13) Week 9, Term 1 becomes a catch-up Monday B
- Friday (12/4/13) Week 11, Term 1 we run lessons 1, 2, 6, 7
- Thursday (9/5/13) Week 2, Term 2 becomes a catch-up Monday B
- Wednesday (22/5/13) Week 4, Term 2 becomes a catch-up Monday A

These changes can also be found through the Online Calendar on the College website.

John Lyons
ACTING DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

SACE

Last week I gave the Year 12 students some tips for achieving success this year. One important aspect I did not mention was attendance. Chronic absenteeism can be a huge stumbling block in a student's strive for success and it adds unnecessary pressure on top of what is already a pressure cooker of emotions and challenges in a student's last year of schooling. Absences impact on a variety of levels such as:

1) Missing care group means that students don't receive all the information pertaining to the year level, for example tertiary nights

2) Missing out on class time means a lack of continuity in the student's learning and can lead them to being unaware of tests coming up or the due dates for assignments. Students who are frequently absent limit their access to their most valuable resource, their subject teacher, and might find themselves without opportunities to submit drafts or engage in discussions about the subject content.

3) For practical based subjects, loss of class time can have devastating effects. The establishment of a folio of work takes time and a diligent approach which can be hampered by absences.

4) Students who don't submit work because of absenteeism may be eligible for Wednesday and/or Saturday detentions. This impacts on their study time and disturbs the balance between school, work, home, sport etc....

5) Students who are frequently absent without valid reasons do NOT qualify for special provisions. Students must present evidence from independent professionals should they feel that they have a case for special provisions. Special provision applications for external assessments (examinable subjects) close at the end of March. Please see me for more information.

6) Students need to make it a priority to catch up on work missed so that there are no gaps in their knowledge of the subject content or skill set. Medical certificates should be obtained for any absence that is health related.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's attendance do not hesitate to contact their care group teacher or the Director of Senior School, Mr Trent Keiper. As always, any SACE related queries should be directed to myself via phone or email.

Maresa Lyons
SACE COORDINATOR

On Friday, March 22, Year 8 Red and Year 8 White will celebrate Mass at St Teresa's Church. Mass begins at 9:00 am and students need to be dropped at St Teresa's Church by 8:45 am. Please bring something to share for morning tea. Parents are most welcome to attend.

The students will walk back to Saint John's Campus at the end of the celebration.

Bernie Meixner
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL IN RELIGIOUS IDENTITY AND MISSION

Minakuchi Exchange

Minakuchi High School in Japan are visiting Samaritan College again this year. Approximately 24 students and 2 teachers will be arriving from Japan on Thursday, July 25 for a 13 day visit.

If you are interested and able to host a student, please contact Mr Boden at the College, or have your child collect an expression of interest letter.

A payment to cover hosting expenses will be provided.

Josh Boden

STUDENTS ARE IN NEED OF HOST FAMILIES