Transition times can be tumultuous for some and smooth sailing for others. We have dealt with change considerably in the past 18 months and we could say quite confidently that the individuals whom we worry might be affected by change have experienced the least impact – the children. Change effects for them are mostly superficial, with only uniform being the most significant. On the whole, their transition experiences have been fruitful with new opportunities and equity of services and programs across the College. This week we have held the transition evenings for Year 7s as they continue their educational journey into the secondary phase. The transition program is treated with sensitivity and awareness that familiarity builds confidence and time does its wonders. If parents and children missed the evening, please ensure you book for the Co-Principals’ Tours next week by ringing Karen McGinnis on 8645 8568.

The NAPLAN tests are complete but results and summaries will take a while to arrive in schools. The results, when complete, will be analysed and used to inform curriculum practices and interventions, if needed. The new initiative of the Quicksmart Mathematics intervention program is a direct result of our desire to address issues of concern in numeracy for children during the formative years. In addition teaching staff are involved in the Numeracy Project, an ongoing professional development program, monitored by numeracy consultants, with hands-on projects in the classroom. This is happening in both the early years and middle years learning bands. Learning support initiatives are also informed by NAPLAN data as well as more official psychological assessments, arranged by parents. If you have any uncertainties about how your child is coping with the curriculum at any level, please do not hesitate to discuss your concerns, firstly with their class or subject teacher, then if necessary with curriculum and/or campus leaders.

Dear parents and caregivers

Transition times can be tumultuous for some and smooth sailing for others. We have dealt with change considerably in the past 18 months and we could say quite confidently that the individuals whom we worry might be affected by change have experienced the least impact – the children. Change effects for them are mostly superficial, with only uniform being the most significant. On the whole, their transition experiences have been fruitful with new opportunities and equity of services and programs across the College. This week we have held the transition evenings for Year 7s as they continue their educational journey into the secondary phase. The transition program is treated with sensitivity and awareness that familiarity builds confidence and time does its wonders. If parents and children missed the evening, please ensure you book for the Co-Principals’ Tours next week by ringing Karen McGinnis on 8645 8568.

The NAPLAN tests are complete but results and summaries will take a while to arrive in schools. The results, when complete, will be analysed and used to inform curriculum practices and interventions, if needed. The new initiative of the Quicksmart Mathematics intervention program is a direct result of our desire to address issues of concern in numeracy for children during the formative years. In addition teaching staff are involved in the Numeracy Project, an ongoing professional development program, monitored by numeracy consultants, with hands-on projects in the classroom. This is happening in both the early years and middle years learning bands. Learning support initiatives are also informed by NAPLAN data as well as more official psychological assessments, arranged by parents. If you have any uncertainties about how your child is coping with the curriculum at any level, please do not hesitate to discuss your concerns, firstly with their class or subject teacher, then if necessary with curriculum and/or campus leaders.
OUR TERRIFIC PARENTS!

Our parish team was most impressed with the response of the First Eucharist parents on Monday night. Almost all the parents made the effort to be there, and participated genuinely and generously. I can say for sure that you will never regret the commitment you put into your children’s spiritual welfare.

In the midst of the preparations, I was called to the hospital. One of our grandfathers, with grandchildren at our College, is preparing that special part of life we call death. Throughout his life, he and his wife have done their very best to see that their children understand and participate in the Eucharist. They have faithfully joined in the Mass every Sunday, bringing their children to hear and make friends with Jesus Our Lord.

Now that he is frail and helpless, it is good to see his children bringing Jesus to him. We celebrated the anointing of the sick, prayed, and blessed him. Since he is too sick to receive Holy Communion himself, his children received it on his behalf.

Throughout our lives, we are drawn to Jesus in the Eucharist. He’s the one who feeds and nourishes the divine life inside us, and inspires us through his Spirit to strengthen and encourage one another.

Fr Jim Monaghan
ON BEHALF OF THE PARISH TEAM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEKEND MASS TIMES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St Teresa’s Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.30am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RELIGIOUS DIMENSION

Mary Help of Christians Feast Day will be celebrated on Tuesday, May 26. Mary is the patron of our Campus and our country, Australia.

Mary, the Mother of God was given the title Help of Christians as a constant reminder that she is there as a model of love and care for all people. We look to Mary for her help, her protection and guidance. We give thanks and praise to God for the grace of Mary’s life. We ask God, through Mary, to come to our help, as we try to live together, in all our differences, in Jesus’ spirit.

PRAYER TO MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

Mary, Mother of Jesus, Help of Christians and Mother of the Church

you were the first disciple to hear the Word of God and to welcome that Word into your life.

Pray for us,
that we may respond with courage,
as you did, when that Word breaks into our lives.

You were the woman of faith,
whose trust in Jesus, your son,
led the disciples to faith at Cana.

Pray for us,
That we will be able to accept your invitation
to do ‘whatever He tells’ us.

You were the woman of fidelity
who, together with the Beloved Disciple,
stood at the foot of the cross and received
the gift of the Spirit
which Jesus poured out for us in love.

Pray for us,
that in and through God’s Holy Spirit,
we might form a school and parish community
of faithful love,
open to God’s Word,
ready to ponder it in our hearts,
and anxious to live by it, day by day.

Amen.

May we rejoice in the prayerful celebrations with the children. May Mary Help of Christians bring special blessings to each family.

God Bless
Eleni Vailas
REC - OLHCC
PRIMARY CAMPUS NEWS

FIRST EUCHARIST
Our preparation for First Eucharist has begun with the children focusing on First Eucharist in their Religious Education lessons this term.

Tomorrow the First Eucharist candidates will take part in their first whole day workshop, which will take place at St Teresa’s Church at 9.00am–3.10pm.

The students attending the workshop will need to bring a packed recess and lunch and may wear coloured clothes along with their school hat.

This Sunday the students will present their Commitment Cards to the Parish. Please keep our First Eucharist candidates in your prayers as they prepare for their special day. It is an important and exciting time for them and their families.

Eleni Vailas
REC - OLHCC
Bernie Meixner
REC - STC

Here are some important First Eucharist dates for the coming week:

Friday, May 22
Workshop 1: 9.00am–3.10pm
St Teresa’s Church

Saturday/Sunday May 23 & 24
Presentation of Commitment Cards

Friday, May 29
Workshop 2: 9.00am–3.10pm
Our Lady Help of Christians Campus

Saturday/Sunday May 30 & 31
Renewal of Baptismal Promises

JUNIOR HOCKEY

Friday 22/5/09 5.00pm  
Minkey Field 1B St Teresa’s 2 vs St Teresa’s 1
Minkey Field 1C OLHC vs Town/Fisk

Friday 22/5/09 6.40pm  
U9/11 Field 1C OLHC B vs OLHC Y
St Teresa’s parents have canteen duty this week. Duty time is 5.00pm-7.00pm on Friday night and 9.00am-11.00am Saturday morning. If parents are unable to do their duty time, please arrange a swap. Thank you.

Tania Taylor
JUNIOR HOCKEY COORDINATOR

ST TERESA’S CAMPUS NEWS

CAR PARK SAFETY
In the interests of child safety I must ask that parents do not ‘double park’ when collecting or dropping off children around the school. We must ask ourselves the question whether being in a hurry or inconvenienced by a longer walk to the gate is more important than the safety of our children and other road users.

The police share our concerns about pick up and drop off practices around the St Teresa’s Campus and will be asked to be a presence around the school to ensure parking rules are being observed.

There is nothing that can be done about the number of parking spaces around the school. The only thing that can be done is to change practices. Perhaps park further from the gate and walk your children to the school entrance.

YEAR 1/2 WOHLLING CLASS LITURGY
Mrs Wohling’s Year 1/2 Class will be celebrating Liturgy at 9.30am on Thursday, May 28 in the campus library. All parents are most welcome to attend and have a cuppa afterwards in the staff room.

CAMPUS ASSEMBLY

Year 4/5 Usher will host the Upper Campus Assembly on Friday, May 29. The assembly will be held at 9.30am in the library.

AUSKICK 2009

In sport lessons at St Teresa’s Campus, children in Reception through to Year 5 will participate in an Australian Rules skills program called Auskick. The AFL and SANFL ask that each child participating in the program is registered. With this newsletter is a registration form for you to fill in for your child. Please complete and return the form to your child’s teacher. There is NO cost to participate in the program.

If you would like to purchase an Auskick pack for your child you can do so through the school. The cost of the pack is $45. Please place the money in a clearly labeled envelope and bring it to the campus office.

Bernie Meixner
CAMPUS COORDINATOR
ST TERESA’S SRC

Thank you for supporting the “Dress Up in Jellybaby Colours Day” last Friday as we endeavour to raise funds to support research into Juvenile Diabetes. We raised a total of $233.35.

The SRC are now encouraging students to enter the Colouring Competition, entry fee being 20 cents.

Guess the Number of Jellybabies in a Jar competition is available, 50 cents a guess or 3 guesses for $1.00.

Come and organise your entries outside the office area.

Please support the SRC in their efforts to raise awareness about Type 1 Diabetes.

Josie Sanders and the SRC team

YEAR 6/7 TURPIN - CAMPUS ASSEMBLY

On Friday, May 15 we held a full campus assembly. As it is the Year of Astronomy we decided to take St Teresa’s Campus on a trip around our Solar System.

We spent a lot of time in class with Miss Turpin and Miss Plummer, our student teacher, organising facts, preparing props and coming up with Martian moves!! We had to make a rocket, some astronaut helmets and posters for each planet.

When we got to Mars we were greeted by some Mars Martians who love to dance! They even know the song ‘Infinity’ by Guru Josh Project. On our way to each planet we gave everyone information about the planet we’d just left. We hope everyone enjoyed our assembly and look forward to doing another one soon!

Year 6/7 Turpin

MS READATHON

Students are being invited to join in the celebrations of the 30th Year of the MS Readathon by registering to take part in the June reading event. Since 1979 schools across Australia have united to help change the lives of people living with multiple sclerosis (MS).

For details on how to get involved please visit www.msreadathon.org.au or call 1300 677 323.

Bonus! Once 20 students from our school have registered online for the MS Readathon, the school will receive a book pack for the library - it’s free to register online, just check with mum or dad first.

CLASS MASSES

Today we held the first of our class Masses for this term. Year 7 Arcobelli and Fahey celebrated Mass at 9.30am along with the rest of the parish family. You are most welcome to attend future celebrations.

MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS FEAST DAY

This year Mary Help of Christians Feast Day will be celebrated with a Year 4-7 Mass and an R-Year 3 Liturgy on Tuesday, May 26.

The Year 4-7 Mass will take place at 9.30am and the R-Year 3 Liturgy will take place at 11.30am in the Church.

At 1.00pm there will be a picnic lunch for all students, staff and parents. It would be great to see you there to celebrate this special day as Mary is the patroness of Australia and our campus.

FOYER DISPLAY

Please venture into the Front Office this fortnight to view the fantastic Foyer Display presented by the Year 7 Arcobelli, they have been learning about a some of the miracles Jesus performed.

God Bless

Eleni Vailas
CAMPUS COORDINATOR
OLHCC CAR PARK CHANGES

We have been looking at how to improve the safety of the car park. The speed limit is 10 km and we are erecting new One Way signs to help with the flow of traffic. The section of the car park by the playground is now one way on both sides. The following diagram shows car flow. Please help us to make our car park safer.

Ruth Donnellan
OHS&W COORDINATOR

SNUFF PUPPETS
COME OUT 09 FESTIVAL

On Wednesday, May 14 the Reception to Year 2 students from the OLHC Campus went to Buff Hall to see the Snuff Puppets Performance.

Snuff Puppets, Melbourne’s world renowned giant puppet company, joined forces with South Australia’s D’faces of Youth Arts and the Whyalla Community, as part of the 2009 Come Out Festival.

The performance was about protecting Point Lowly and its ecosystem from future development. After the performance the children each made a cuttlefish puppet and viewed the puppet displays presented by various Whyalla schools.

Here are some thoughts from the children about the excursion:

“I liked it when the two baby cuttlefish came out of the egg.”
Tristan Ward – R/1 Rothe

“I liked the big puppets and then we got to make our own puppets.”
Georgia Hoffman – R/1 Hancock

“I liked the big seagull puppets and making the cuttlefish puppet.”
Sarah Stirling – R/1 Harris

“Now that’s just weird.”
Lucy Bray – 2/3 Gray

“I liked the baby cuttlefish.”
Zac Butson – 2/3 Sinclair

“I liked the seagulls and the part when the seagulls were pecking at the cuttlefish.”
Ethan Daly – 1/2 Hearne

SAINT JOHN’S CAMPUS NEWS

CO-PRINCIPALS’ TOURS

Next Wednesday evening, May 27, we will be conducting Co-Principals’ Tours for prospective Year 7 families.
Many Year 8 students will be asked to assist with creating interactive displays from 5.00–9.00pm. If your child is asked to attend they will be bringing a note home late this week to inform you of their required attendance. As a reward for generosity of service, Year 8 helpers will not be required back at school until 10.30am the following day.

There is a considerable amount of planning and preparation which needs to occur on the day. In order to facilitate this, school is dismissed for all students at 2.35pm. Should parents have any additional questions or concerns regarding this arrangement, please contact me at the Saint John’s Campus at your earliest convenience.

With thanks,
Brett Czechowski
SECONDARY CAMPUS LEADER
**CANTINEE ROSTERS**

Monday, May 25  – Friday, May 29

ST TERESA’S CAMPUSS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Mon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jean McCarroll</td>
<td>Fiona Moffatt</td>
<td>Antoneta Rogers</td>
<td>Diana Moia</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CAMPUSS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Tue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Quirk</td>
<td>Leigh Taylor</td>
<td>Yvette Balkwill</td>
<td>Dana Campion</td>
<td>Sunny Chung</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Wed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shae Azzopardi</td>
<td>Grace Hullah</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thur</th>
<th>Thur</th>
<th>Thur</th>
<th>Thur</th>
<th>Thur</th>
<th>Thur</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Olivia Chinnery</td>
<td>Madison Kersten</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Fri</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Geniene Prater</td>
<td>Annette Cameron</td>
<td>Rose Cassar</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SAINT JOHN’S CAMPUSS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Mon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bev Carlson</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
<td>Pauline Higgins</td>
<td>Julie Drake</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Tue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vicki Castle</td>
<td>Diana Jeffrey</td>
<td>Lorraine Ackling</td>
<td>Roseanna Wragg</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Wed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liz Dennis</td>
<td>Marg Coad</td>
<td>Canaan Managem</td>
<td>Canaan Managem</td>
<td>Canaan Managem</td>
<td>Canaan Managem</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ADLAIDE SWIMMING CARNIVAL - PHOTOS**

This is just a follow up notice regarding the Swimming Carnival held in Adelaide on March 16.

I am in the process of writing the article for the school annual and would like to add some photographs to the page.

If you have any photographs from the event could you please send them to katenolan@samaritan.catholic.edu.au. Thanks in anticipation.

Kate Nolan
SPORTS COORDINATOR

**MATHEMATICS**

Mathematics at Samaritan College has undergone huge change this year. Much discussed is the change from “streamed” to mixed ability classes, with people wanting justification for the change.

In Autumn 2008, the EQ Australia Journal published an article entitled “Is time up for ability grouping?” It highlighted several points that we should consider when reflecting on the change. Firstly that “generally any benefits which accrue from ability grouping are only to very high achievers, with a negative impact on average and low attaining students”. It continues that the only demonstrated benefit, however only slight, being to the high attaining students.

It also highlights that “International testing data shows that ability grouping has an overall negative effect on a country’s performance”. There are two factors associated with successful national education systems. One factor being the “opportunity to learn”. Students who are in those lower ability classes are unlikely to experience important parts of the curriculum and are immediately disadvantaged in terms of opportunity to learn.

In the interest of social justice ability grouping cannot be supported. Evidence shows that students from lower socioeconomic status groups are over represented in the lower ability classes. By schools placing students in these ability groups we are adding further to the educational disadvantage that is carried by being in a lower socioeconomic status group. By encouraging students to support their classmates when they are having difficulty we are contributing to a more just society. The act of a student explaining a concept or skill to another person can greatly enhance their own understanding of the idea, or perhaps reveal a difficulty about which they were not aware.

With these and the other reasons highlighted we saw the need to change. So now the question is “How do we best support those students who previously haven’t been exposed to the same teaching and learning of their peers?” In school the teachers are being encouraged to develop different methods of making the curriculum accessible to all students as well as extending those who find tasks relatively straightforward. There will continue to be assessment which focuses on the development of skills, but also some which allows students to show their understanding of concepts.

To assist in the development of mathematical skills all students have been enrolled in a web-based program called Maths Online. This is similar to the websites Mathletics and, I’m lead to believe, Hot Maths but without the costs involved. It is designed to fit the Australian Curriculum from 7 – 12. In promotion it is explained as “The Maths Online program is akin to having unlimited access to an outstanding teacher who can explain things in a way that is easily understood with the added benefit of being able to ‘stop, pause and rewind’ the teacher as many times as needed. Maths Online marks and records students’ answers to hundreds of activities, providing detailed reports which allow teachers and parents to review progress at any time.”

I’m hoping that, along with in-class teacher support and Maths Help on Tuesdays, the Maths Online program will prove beneficial to all students learning and understanding of Mathematics. Please have a look at the site at www.mathsonline.com.au and encourage your child to login regularly.

John Lyons
MATHEMATICS COORDINATOR

**RECYCLE MOBILE PHONES!**

Bring, bring, bring in all your mobile phones. Take your old mobile phones to the donation box in the library or front office for your chance to win fabulous prizes.

SRC

**CAANTEE ROSTERS**

Monday, May 25  – Friday, May 29

ST TERESA’S CAMPUSS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Mon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jean McCarroll</td>
<td>Fiona Moffatt</td>
<td>Antoneta Rogers</td>
<td>Diana Moia</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CAMPUSS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Tue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Quirk</td>
<td>Leigh Taylor</td>
<td>Yvette Balkwill</td>
<td>Dana Campion</td>
<td>Sunny Chung</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Wed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shae Azzopardi</td>
<td>Grace Hullah</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thur</th>
<th>Thur</th>
<th>Thur</th>
<th>Thur</th>
<th>Thur</th>
<th>Thur</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Olivia Chinnery</td>
<td>Madison Kersten</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Fri</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Geniene Prater</td>
<td>Annette Cameron</td>
<td>Rose Cassar</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SAINT JOHN’S CAMPUSS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Mon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bev Carlson</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
<td>Pauline Higgins</td>
<td>Julie Drake</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Tue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vicki Castle</td>
<td>Diana Jeffrey</td>
<td>Lorraine Ackling</td>
<td>Roseanna Wragg</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Wed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liz Dennis</td>
<td>Marg Coad</td>
<td>Canaan Managem</td>
<td>Canaan Managem</td>
<td>Canaan Managem</td>
<td>Canaan Managem</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MATHEMATICS**

Mathematics at Samaritan College has undergone huge change this year. Much discussed is the change from “streamed” to mixed ability classes, with people wanting justification for the change.

In Autumn 2008, the EQ Australia Journal published an article entitled “Is time up for ability grouping?” It highlighted several points that we should consider when reflecting on the change. Firstly that “generally any benefits which accrue from ability grouping are only to very high achievers, with a negative impact on average and low attaining students”. It continues that the only demonstrated benefit, however only slight, being to the high attaining students.

It also highlights that “International testing data shows that ability grouping has an overall negative effect on a country’s performance”. There are two factors associated with successful national education systems. One factor being the “opportunity to learn”. Students who are in those lower ability classes are unlikely to experience important parts of the curriculum and are immediately disadvantaged in terms of opportunity to learn.

In the interest of social justice ability grouping cannot be supported. Evidence shows that students from lower socioeconomic status groups are over represented in the lower ability classes. By schools placing students in these ability groups we are adding further to the educational disadvantage that is carried by being in a lower socioeconomic status group. By encouraging students to support their classmates when they are having difficulty we are contributing to a more just society. The act of a student explaining a concept or skill to another person can greatly enhance their own understanding of the idea, or perhaps reveal a difficulty about which they were not aware.

With these and the other reasons highlighted we saw the need to change. So now the question is “How do we best support those students who previously haven’t been exposed to the same teaching and learning of their peers?” In school the teachers are being encouraged to develop different methods of making the curriculum accessible to all students as well as extending those who find tasks relatively straightforward. There will continue to be assessment which focuses on the development of skills, but also some which allows students to show their understanding of concepts.

To assist in the development of mathematical skills all students have been enrolled in a web-based program called Maths Online. This is similar to the websites Mathletics and, I’m lead to believe, Hot Maths but without the costs involved. It is designed to fit the Australian Curriculum from 7 – 12. In promotion it is explained as “The Maths Online program is akin to having unlimited access to an outstanding teacher who can explain things in a way that is easily understood with the added benefit of being able to ‘stop, pause and rewind’ the teacher as many times as needed. Maths Online marks and records students’ answers to hundreds of activities, providing detailed reports which allow teachers and parents to review progress at any time.”

I’m hoping that, along with in-class teacher support and Maths Help on Tuesdays, the Maths Online program will prove beneficial to all students learning and understanding of Mathematics. Please have a look at the site at www.mathsonline.com.au and encourage your child to login regularly.

John Lyons
MATHEMATICS COORDINATOR

**RECYCLE MOBILE PHONES!**

Bring, bring, bring in all your mobile phones. Take your old mobile phones to the donation box in the library or front office for your chance to win fabulous prizes.

SRC