Dear Parents/Caregivers,

‘But some seeds fell in good soil, and the plants sprouted, grew, and produced corn: some had thirty grains, others sixty, and others a hundred. And Jesus proclaimed, “Listen then, if you have ears!” Mark 4: 1-10

A PRIVILEGED EDUCATION

Last week Terissa attended a Sidney Myer Chair of Rural Education & Communities led by Dr George Otero, titled: "Rural Communities… Education for the 21st Century", which focussed on international success stories in raising the bar with children, whether in communities at the margins (where the greatest difference was tracked) or in more privileged communities. In fact, the speaker focussed greatly on the privilege enjoyed in communities that outsiders might consider to be challenged; economically, socially, geographically. If we are about creating a ‘gift culture’, where we celebrate our opportunity for opportunity, the strongest imperative was – not surprisingly, the gift of relationship.

One very simple acronym – for a program which was found to have the greatest intervention for parents was the “STAR” program. SING with your children; TALK with your children; ASK questions about anything; READ to each other.

PLAY was identified as “a powerful part of natural pedagogy”, where the fun in the learning made all the difference; this doesn’t change no matter what our age!! In a nutshell, ‘rural education is a privileged education, where as a community – connectedness makes all the difference. The building of social capital happens with quality relationship. For students to experience success, effective families (where there is warmth and firmness), effective communities (building social capital), and effective classrooms (developed through the quality of relationships) are required. Let us all work together as a community with a shared interest in the one focus – the health, wellbeing and successful, well rounded education of our children.

SUPPORTING ALL FAMILIES EQUITABLY

Each week we will continue to provide information regarding school funding as we await the practical response of the Australian Government to the Gonski Report. This week the focus is on students with special needs.

A significant area of concern has been the need to get funding right to special needs students. Governments have never funded students with special needs in Catholic schools in the same way they fund students with the same needs in government schools. This is despite more and more families with students with special needs choosing to send their children to a Catholic school. As part of the special needs funding challenge, we need to ensure that our students are provided with the necessary support to succeed.

Terissa Shepherd
Co-Principal

Chris Sloan
Co-Principal
of their social justice mission, Catholic school communities welcome all students, despite the small amount of funding they receive to support them. Government funding for Catholic students with special needs often falls short of what students require. If these Catholic students were enrolled in Government schools, they would receive more funding to support their needs. It’s time now for governments to fund students equally, based on their needs, and not the school they attend.

We have recently celebrated a number of funerals in the parish. You may wonder at the use of the word celebrated but these funerals have been for people who were elderly and had health problems. There was definitely sadness as there always is when we say goodbye to someone we love. But they were not tragic in the sense that the unexpected death of a healthy, young person like John McCarthy is a tragedy. I use the word celebrated because the funerals were a celebration of the lives of those we were honouring.

A quote which makes a lot of sense to me on such occasions is, “God gives us the gift of life and we return that gift by the way we live our lives.” As we celebrate the lives and goodness of the deceased, it is also a reminder of the reality that there will be a time when we too will die and that life is to be appreciated and not just taken for granted.

One of the things that impresses me so much when I meet students at our campuses or when they come to celebrate Masses and liturgies at our churches is the genuine enthusiasm for life which they bring with them. The leaders, teachers and staff engender such a sense of joy, support, learning, security and hope that makes Samaritan College such a holistic school for life, with the Catholic ethos at its core.

You may think that it is unusual to mix funerals with life but the point is that funerals remind us to appreciate life and to live it here and now. The examples of those who have died give us a chance to look at ourselves and perhaps consider what we could say about ourselves and how we could change to live our lives more authentically. It is also a reminder to overtly express our love and gratitude to our families, friends and associates here and now. Eulogies are a fitting memorial to the dead but we have a more significant opportunity to express our appreciation face to face. Funerals are a part of life and fortunately for us, as the liturgy says, “Life is changed, not ended.”

As Father Ben said, “having the students there was just another way to get the message of Jesus across. Student readers, singers and dancers Lisa Howard, presented various aspects of the Mass to some of our Year 11 students, guided by their teacher Ms Christine Duffield, directed casual clothes and disco days on each campus, under the leadership of Lou Gogoll, who have conducted casual clothes and disco days on each campus with funds raised from these going to the St Vinnies’ Christmas appeal. Our students live out the mission of our college in a socially just way. Thank you to everyone involved.

**FINAL DAY**

A reminder is extended to all families that students finish the term at the end of Thursday, September 20 and resume school on Tuesday, October 9.

**RELIGIOUS DIMENSION**

Today (September 13) is the Feast day of St John Chrysostom who died on September 14, 407.

In 398, he became the See of Constantinople and was one of the greatest lights of the Church. However, he had enemies in high places and several accusations were brought against him and he was sent into exile. In the midst of his sufferings, like the apostle, St Paul, whom he so greatly admired, he found the greatest peace and happiness. He had the consolation of knowing that the Pope remained his friend, and did for him what lay in his power. His enemies were not satisfied with the sufferings he had already endured, and they banished him still further, to Pythius, at the very extremity of the Empire. He died on his way there on September 14, 407.

Being reminded of the messages Jesus had for us can happen in a variety of ways and at different times. In last week’s readings we were reminded of the need to recognise the presence and love of God when other people reach out to us in love. In the human touch there is always comfort and healing and strengthening and a way to experience God in our lives. Jesus also taught us that there are many people in this world, even in our own families, who need us to hold out a hand to them, to hold them, to be there for them. Our ‘human flesh’ is what God needs to let the world experience His love and compassion. How will we do this?

Last Saturday evening we were able to witness another way the message of Jesus can be brought to us when some of our Year 11 students, guided by their teacher Ms Lisa Howard, presented various aspects of the Mass to the congregation. Student readers, singers and dancers showed another way to get the message of Jesus across. As Father Ben said, “having the students there was just lovely”.

Christine Duffield
DIRECTOR OF STUDENTS (SECONDARY)
MORE THAN FACEBOOK?

What is often overlooked by students and parents is the huge variety of places where young people have access to the internet and potential predators. Facebook and Twitter are the two most obvious examples but students often engage in online conversations with unknown ‘friends’ on the Xbox, Youtube, and a range of ‘new’ apps on smartphones, such as Kik. All are free and basically act as an alternative to Facebook. Even the popular online game of ‘Moshi Monsters’ allow young children to make comments about other young children online. They also allow unknown people to befriend your child using a username.

A 2009 study found that 77% of Australian children had received an online message from someone they did not know. If you are concerned about your child’s online presence, then far more than Facebook needs to be monitored. Many leading researchers agree that primary aged children are not ready for an online profile. Facebook, itself, does not allow users to be under 13 with some countries introducing an even higher age.

UNIFORM

Starting on Monday, September 10, students may choose to wear their full summer uniform. There are to be no combinations of winter/summer to be worn. Please check the College diary for reminders of the uniform expectations. Whilst hats are not a requirement in Terms 2 and 3, students are encouraged to protect themselves against skin damage. It is also timely to remind students that hats are expected to be worn during recess and lunch in Term 4, as well as any outside activities that your teachers have scheduled.

The Poor Orphans Need Shoes! Can You Help?

Are you able to help the orphans find some shoes?

We are looking for seven pairs of lace up or pull on boots (similar to the picture) for the main orphans to wear during our performance of Annie. We will ensure that they are well taken care of!

They will be needed in Week 10 of this term to see if they fit and then will be needed in Week 5 of Term 4 (Monday to Saturday, November 5-10)

The sizes we need are:

1 x adult size 2
2 x adult size 5
1 x adult size 9
1 x adult size 4
2 x adult size 7

Any shoes can be left at either of the primary campuses offices to be picked up. Please ensure that they are named.

We would greatly appreciate any loans of shoes for our orphans

Rebecca Sinclair and Rebecca McArthur

Costume Department

MONICA BROWN VISIT

Next week Samaritan College will welcome Sr Monica Brown who will work with children and staff. Monica is a Good Samaritan Sister who works in faith formation and liturgy celebration. She is a musician and comes to share her faith with the primary students through music and song.

While Monica is in Whyalla she will also work with staff in faith formation. The staff of our college need opportunities to develop their own faith as we work in a Catholic environment and the spiritual journey they travel and share with their students is most important to maintain the Catholic identity of our school. The time invested next week in this area helps in the growth of our staff and college.

Bernie Meixner
Assistant Principal in Religious Identity and Mission

MUSICAL REHEARSALS - WEEK 10

Monday September 17

1pm-3:25pm

All Cast Members to Attend

Souths Football Club, Beach Rd

All students to be picked up from South's after Rehearsal.
HOCKEY

Friday, September 14

5:00pm – U13 and Junior Umpires Presentations, at clubrooms.

6:45pm – U13 Grand Final – OLHC vs STC.

It would be great to have lots of support for these two really strong hockey teams from Samaritan College, representing our primary campuses. Come along and cheer on the yellow or blue teams.

We invite as many students and staff and families as possible to celebrate a great season and to cheer on and encourage the two top teams in their Grand Final play off. These are the hockey players of the future for Samaritan College, and we wish both teams well in the Grand Final.

This Grand Final will be followed at 7:50pm by the U18 Grand Final between Hummock Hill and Steel City. Both teams have many Samaritan College students as well, so stay to watch and enjoy a fast paced and skillful game of hockey as a warm up for the Grand Final day on Saturday.

Tania Taylor

STC CAMPUS CAR PARKING

Please remember to park in designated areas as we have had a number of people parking over driveways especially at the staff park and Centacare.

A repeated request to parents: Do not double park out in the road for a ‘quick pick-up’ of your child, this is highly dangerous and as such, is an offence under the Traffic Act.

Ruth Donnellan
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

YEAR 5 PICI RICHI CAMP

This week, the Year 5 students across the primary campuses travelled to Pichi Richi Park for camp. The park is located in the Pichi Richi Pass between Port Augusta and Quorn nestled in the southern Flinders Ranges. The campers were spoilt with great weather, great food and a range of interesting, challenging and fun activities. The highlights were bushwalking along part of the Heysen Trail and orienteering.

Thank you to Year 5 teachers who attended the Camp – Mr Baverstock, Ms Nicki Boots, Ms Natasha Fiedler, Mrs Natasha Free, and a big thank you to Ms Jodie Turpin who was at camp all week as the first aider and for her support and assistance with running the camp. Finally, thank you to the students for making the camp so successful, they made camp a truly rewarding experience.

WHYALLA CHOIR

Last week 31 students across the primary campuses were involved in the Whyalla Choir Performances at the Middleback Theatre. The students entertained the audience with their wonderful singing; they are to be commended for their efforts. Well done to all the students involved!

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the six soloists for their outstanding efforts in last week’s performances: Rebecca Aspey, Jordan Burns, Stephanie Etmanok, Kaitlyn Kimberley, Kiarra Leopold, Mirella Marino.

Congratulations to Mirella Marino who designed one of the posters used to promote the show and Rachel Mudge who designed the t-shirt worn by all choristers.

Thank you to Ms Melinda Gray and Mrs Kerri Smith who were responsible for training and preparing both choirs this year.

Congratulations to the following students from the primary campuses who performed at last week’s Whyalla Choir Performance:

Brodie Adamson, Coen Alberts, Rebecca Aspey, Jordan Burns, Adam Butts, Paris Care-Wickham, Oscar Clark, Abbie Denton, Emily Ernesti, Stephanie Ettmanok, Alex Figueroa, Kirra Hanley, Sophie Harris, Jesse Jones, Kaitlyn Kimberley, Richelle Kneebone, Kiarra Leopold, James Lockwood, Lucas Looyestyn, Claudia Marino, Mirella Marino, Rivva Norman, Sophie O’Neill, Jenna Pudney, Tom Quinn, Melinda Tarran, Maddie Taylor, Courtney Thomas, Radha Tucker, Brooke Vitaljic and Victoria Wood.

LOST PROPERTY CUPBOARDS

The lost property cupboards at the primary campuses are overflowing! If your child has lost clothing, lunch boxes and water bottles, please come and check the lost property cupboard. Anything left at the end of term will go to either St Vinnies or the Uniform Shop.

SRC DISCOS

This week, the SRC students across the primary campuses held discos to raise money to go towards this year’s St Vinnies Christmas Appeal.

Thank you to Ms Louise Gogoll and the Student Representative Council for their organising of such a fun activity. It was great to see so many children enjoying dancing away for this hour long activity.

ANN’S JOURNEY

Life delivers daily challenges and choices throughout our lives. I reflect back on my 25 year journey at Our Ladies as a very special time. I would like to express my gratitude and thanks to all staff, students and parents who have been part of that journey. Thank you to the special people who made my farewell possible and all who shared that memorable night. I would like to make mention of the past staff who travelled especially to join with us. I thank you for the wonderful gift of friendship. A big thanks to all the Year 6/7s who created such a wonderful farewell liturgy and to the past Our Ladies students who wrote in my farewell book, I was especially touched by the words of the Year 12s.

Ann Wilson

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

STC CAMPUS CAR PARKING

Please remember to park in designated areas as we have had a number of people parking over driveways especially at the staff park and Centacare.

A repeated request to parents: Do not double park out in the road for a ‘quick pick-up’ of your child, this is highly dangerous and as such, is an offence under the Traffic Act.

Ruth Donnellan
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Whyalla Choir Performances

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Tania Taylor
REPORTS

Mid-semester reports are sent home tomorrow. As usual, Year 8-10 students receive indicators and grades for their subjects at this time whereas Year 11 and 12 subjects will have comments too. Explanation of our grades can be found on our website. There is a form in each report envelope to be returned to let us know you have received your child’s report. Year 8-11 still have another report to come in Term 4.

PARENT INTERVIEWS

These are next Tuesday and Wednesday from 3:30pm to 6:30pm. Students were given booking forms on Monday. While staff are happy to make times to meet with you anytime, these evenings have all the staff together in the one place at the same time. We strongly encourage parent interviews for all our students.

ANNIE/MURRAY VENTURE

With the river levels affecting our original Murray Venture date, an alternate period was arranged for Week 3, 4, 5 of Term 4. Given that some of the staff needed on the Murray are also required for Year 11 and 12 exam preparation, these three weeks were the only times available to run the Murray. This did create an unfortunate clash for those Year 10s who are also rehearsing for the College production of Annie. These students will go on the first Murray in Week 3. It does impact on rehearsals but extra times will be arranged before these students leave.

SOCKS & HATS

Thank you to the families for arranging the correct College white socks for their child. Only a week or so ago there was a disturbingly high number of students wearing the ‘wrong’ socks. This number is now far lower. Socks and hats can be purchased from the canteen. Students should essentially be wearing their hats NOW but definitely on the first Tuesday of Term 4.

Damien Judd
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

YEAR 8 BASKETBALL

Samaritan’s Year 8 represented the College last Wednesday in the Basketball Carnival. An epic battle between Samaritan, Roxby Downs and Port Augusta saw a victory for both our boys and girls. The girls were undefeated all day, working cohesively as a team, passing the ball and taking advantage of the most opportunities to score points. The boys were defeated by Roxby downs, but got through...
to the final on percentage. It was an exciting point for point game, that eventually resulted in Samaritan snatching the win from Roxby.

Our teams played well, interacted well and represented the College as both successful basketball players and students.

*Kirby Howell
SPORTS COORDINATOR

JAPANESE NEWS

With the conclusion of this year’s Minakuchi Exchange well behind us, plans are already underway for next year’s program. We recently received the following from Mr NOSE Yoshitaka, the Principal of Minakuchi High School, expressing their gratitude for another successful venture:

“I am happy to send you this letter to express my gratitude. Upon returning to Japan, the students of Minakuchi High School looked so happy that I am sure that their home stay program was a great success. I am confident that this program has played an important role in nurturing their enthusiasm for the English language and studying about foreign countries.”

The value of our efforts and experiences has finally borne fruit for our students, as it is with great excitement that I can announce that our Japan Trip, scheduled for December this year, will now consist of a three day home stay with Minakuchi High School. This is something that has been in negotiations for years, and I am very excited that our students will get to experience this beautiful part of Japan with some old friends.

*Josh Boden
JAPANESE TEACHER

CANTERBURY ROSTERS

Monday, September 17 – Friday, September 21

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<tr>
<th>Mon</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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<td>Mon</td>
<td>Joanne Foubister</td>
<td>Nardia Hogan</td>
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<td>Courtney Higgins</td>
<td>Maddie Utting</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
<td>Nicole Higgins</td>
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<td>Mark Plunkett</td>
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<td>Thu</td>
<td>NO LUNCHES</td>
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<td>Roseanna Wragg</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
<td>PUPIL FREE DAY</td>
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Annette Cameron
CANTEEN MANAGER

Rose Cassar
CANTEEN MANAGER

Marg Coad
CANTEEN MANAGER

COMMUNITY NEWS

Samaritan Hall available for hire

Samaritan Hall is now available for hire.* Facilities include netball, basketball, indoor soccer, volleyball, badminton. Details can be accessed on our website under the forms section or http://web.samaritan.catholic.edu.au/content/forms/samaritanhall_hire.pdf

Samaritan College
Saint John’s Campus
30 Cowrie Ave
Whyalla SA 5600

Enquiries:
Business Manager
Ph: 8645 4598
Email: info@samaritan.catholic.edu.au

*Public Liability Insurance required for hire of hall.

JOBS AND SKILLS EXPOS

The Jobs and Skills Expo is coming to Whyalla.

Come along to the Jobs and Skills Expo and you’ll get information about real jobs now and into the future. You can also find out about training and gaining new skills to increase your chances of finding a job.

There’s a free sausage sizzle too.

Join us!

TIME: 10.00 am to 3.00 pm
DATE: Tuesday, 16 October 2012
VENUE: Whyalla Health and Leisure Centre
Racecourse Road
Whyalla

For more information go online at http://humanresources.gnva/expos

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Samaritan College
Saint John’s Campus
30 Cowrie Ave
Whyalla SA 5600

Enquiries:
Business Manager
Ph: 8645 4598
Email: info@samaritan.catholic.edu.au

*Public Liability Insurance required for hire of hall.

Would $500 help you pay for school uniforms, books or a laptop?

The Smith Family is lacking for new participants in your local area.

You may be eligible if you or your partner have:
• a Health Care or a Pensioner Concession Card
• a child at school or starting next year
• some regular income from work.

Contact Erica Beeson, your local Saver Plus Worker:
08 8644 1313 / 0418 648 678 or erica.beeson@smithfamily.com.au

Samaritan Hall was developed by the Whyalla Catholic Parish and is funded by the Australian Catholic Church.