Dear parents and caregivers,

**STUDENTS’ EMBRACE CHANGE**

Last week it was pleasing to be amongst such positive student spirit at the inaugural Year 7-11 Sports Day. The second year of the amalgamation has continued to be another year of firsts, where changes are an attempt to integrate students and to improve on previous issues with events. One particular aim of the new secondary Sports Day timing was to alleviate the challenges of excessive hot weather in Term 1 of the school year, yet still prepare students for the Spencer Gulf championships, that are held midway through Term 1. We were particularly proud of the senior leaders who embraced the new concept and lead their houses with gusto. The next step is to drive an R-12 ‘House Cheer Spectacular’ in readiness for the Opening School Mass next year, therefore, at the beginning of next year there will be much cross campus collaboration for this planned extravaganza.

We continue the positive community spirit with our family and carols nights this Friday and next Tuesday at the primary campuses. We look forward to seeing all members of the community at these events, which the children and staff prepare for with such dedication and excitement every year.

**STAFF NEWS**

It is with pleasure that we announce the appointment of Mr Damien Judd, as Deputy Principal – Secondary Campus Leader. Damien comes to us with a wealth of experience working in Catholic schools and in leadership. We would also like to announce that we have employed Chelsea Cooper, Cassie Francis and Katherine Perry at OLHC next year, farewelling Marg Harris, Emma Hart and Tracey Pitts. At Saint John's Campus, we have employed Julia Anntila, Rebecca Pollard, Kirby Howell, Kimberley Hall, Greg Coulter and Matthew Scadding, farewelling Brett Czechowski as departing Deputy, Melissa O’Donnell, Peter Steel, Alex Pfeiffer, Mark Westlake, Joann Budrys and Margaret Alexander. There is also some cross campus staff movement in 2010.

**NEWSLETTER INSERTS THIS WEEK**

The Federation of Catholic school communities have lead the drive for state government to contribute more to our children’s education through funding increases. Please view the graphs and information included in this Newsletter. As the election looms next year, there will be further information provided to parents.

An additional insert is a letter provided by the Australian Drug Foundation, who seek the support of schools in spreading the concerns of the increasingly prevalent use and abuse of alcohol by young people.

**WITH THANKS**

On behalf of the College we would like to thank all staff and parents for your tireless work and support of the young people in our care. Please have a happy, holy and safe Christmas.

TERISSA SHEPHERD

CHRIS SLOAN

CO-PRINCIPALS
Last week in the Parish we had the Year 12 Graduation Mass. It was a time for giving thanks for the students who had completed their education at Samaritan College. We pray that their lives will be blessed as they move into another stage of their life. We wish them well as they wait for their end of year results and make plans for the future.

This week in the Parish we have held many end of year Liturgies. It is always good to see the parent involvement in these celebrations and it is a time for us all to give thanks for the blessings that have come our way through the school community.

Last weekend we started the season of Advent. This is a special season unique in its prayerfulness and developing anticipation, despite the encroachment of the silly season and the commercial side of Christmas. In our homes it would be good if we placed a simple Advent wreath on the dinner table, or made a simple crib to remind us of what we are preparing for during these weeks. Next Sunday, the Second Sunday of Advent, we invite you to bring your christmas crib to any of the Masses for a blessing.

On the weekend at our Sunday Masses we welcome six Enquirers into the Catechumenate. We will pray for these candidates as they continue their journey in the Catholic faith preparing to be baptised and received into our Church community next Easter.

In the coming week let us make time to stop and reflect on the meaning of Advent in our life. I would like to take the opportunity to contact or visit someone who I know is lonely at this time. Maybe that is something we could do in the coming weeks before Christmas.

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday and God's Blessing for Christmas and the New Year.

Sr Cheryle Thomson
ON BEHALF OF THE PARISH TEAM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEKEND MASS TIMES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St Teresa's Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 7.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 8.30am</td>
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As we head into the second week of Advent we focus on Love. Compassion stems from love. This is an opportune moment to reflect on how we have engaged in compassionate action this year and to seize any opportunity in the coming weeks to do so. Advent is an ideal time to live out our motto of Faith, Wisdom and Compassion.

Loving God, may the love that you showed us in the birth of your Son help each of us offer aid to others who could benefit from our gifts. May this season be one where we go beyond our own want and think of others in our community and in the world who need our care.

Amen.

Angela Rogers
REC - SJC

**PARISH NEWS**

**UNIFORM SHOP**

**Opening Hours**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>8:00-10:00am</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>1:00-4:30pm</td>
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We now have plenty of stock of all sizes of the short sleeved smartplay polo top.

In Week 9 the uniform shop will still be open during the above times to cater for those going on holidays who wish to finalise next year’s uniform before they go away.

Opening hours for next year before school starts will be:

**Wednesday, January 20**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday, January 25</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:30am-4:30pm</td>
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Kerry Azzopardi  Sharron Waldron  Toal Street, Whyalla Stuart  Ph: 8649 3168
LIST OF PRIZE WINNERS – 2009
(Academic, Christian Leadership, Effort and Achievement and Community Awards)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 7</th>
<th>YEAR 8</th>
<th>YEAR 9</th>
<th>YEAR 10</th>
<th>YEAR 11</th>
<th>YEAR 12</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chalmers</td>
<td>Justine</td>
<td>Bray</td>
<td>Eliza</td>
<td>Ackling</td>
<td>Berry</td>
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<td>Fitzgerald</td>
<td>Rachel</td>
<td>Butt</td>
<td>Rhiannon</td>
<td>Caddy</td>
<td>Billows</td>
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<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>Mikayla</td>
<td>Callaghan</td>
<td>Tyler</td>
<td>Clements</td>
<td>Domingo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greenwood</td>
<td>Shane</td>
<td>Chandler</td>
<td>Jenna</td>
<td>Cornick</td>
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<td>Gurney</td>
<td>Joseph</td>
<td>Coad</td>
<td>Kelsey</td>
<td>Donnellan</td>
<td>Foulkes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homes</td>
<td>Benjamin</td>
<td>Deleuo</td>
<td>Joshua</td>
<td>Fulton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeffery</td>
<td>Kahli</td>
<td>Freymark</td>
<td>Amber</td>
<td>Gibbons</td>
<td>Halyburton</td>
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<tr>
<td>McLaughlan</td>
<td>Lewis</td>
<td>Hawes</td>
<td>Megan</td>
<td>Howard</td>
<td>Herbert</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rigley</td>
<td>James</td>
<td>Homes</td>
<td>Jaime</td>
<td>Johnston</td>
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<td>Robinson</td>
<td>Dale</td>
<td>Klobucar</td>
<td>Ethan</td>
<td>Karoussis</td>
<td>Kotsomitis</td>
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<td>Spirat</td>
<td>Hannah</td>
<td>Marshall</td>
<td>Patrick</td>
<td>Keating</td>
<td>Larcombe</td>
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<td>Tran</td>
<td>Hung</td>
<td>McLeod</td>
<td>Lauren</td>
<td>Kenny</td>
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<td>Simpson</td>
<td>Taylor</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Brittnay</td>
<td>Maidza</td>
<td>Lynch</td>
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<td>Whitehouse</td>
<td>Zachary</td>
<td>Bray</td>
<td>Eliza</td>
<td>Main</td>
<td>Novillos</td>
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<td>McCann</td>
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<td>Yanwood</td>
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Please note: Some students are multiple prize winners. Their names, however, have only been listed once. Samaritan College extends its congratulations to all students and their families.
Christmas puddings

There are still puddings available! Please come into your campus office to buy a delicious pudding.

- Macadamia & Brandy 1kg $28.00
- Choc Rum & Raisin 1kg $28.00
- Triple Choc 1kg $28.00
- Choc Orange Log 1kg $28.00
- Gluten Free Log 1kg $28.00
- Christmas Pudding 500g $20.00

Primary Reports

Primary reports will be sent home on Monday, December 7, along with your child’s placement for 2010.

On Monday of next week, students at OLHCC will visit their 2010 classroom and meet their teacher/s for next year.

On Tuesday of next week, students at STC will visit their 2010 classroom and meet their teacher/s for next year.

I would like to thank the staff, both Teachers and Education Support Officers of both campuses, for their outstanding effort during 2009 to do the best for every student in our primary campuses.

I have enjoyed being at both campuses and have appreciated my connection with the students, families and staff.

Thank you to Margaret Harris, who is retiring at the end of the year, after 36 years in Catholic Education at OLHCC. We wish her happiness for her future!

I wish you all a happy, holy [and safe] Christmas!

Patricia Page

Principal

Primary Campus Leader
MERRY CHRISTMAS
As we move through the Advent season it is important to think about the preparation we are undertaking for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. Some practical ways to prepare for Christmas are choosing something today to bring happiness to someone in your family. Have patience with the members of your family. Sort out old toys and games and give them to people in need. Donate to the Vinnie’s Christmas appeal. Make some cards that celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. Say the prayer ‘Jesus, help me to bring your happiness to others’.

All the staff at St Teresa’s Campus would like to wish each family a happy and safe Christmas. Thank you for your continued support over the year and we look forward to a fruitful 2010.

UPCOMING EVENTS – FAMILY NIGHT
St Teresa’s Campus Family Night will be held on Friday, December 4 from 6:00pm. If your family is not attending Family Night please let classroom teachers know as soon as possible.

Children of Saint Teresa’s Campus will receive a free sausage for tea. Adults and siblings will be able to purchase sausages or steak sandwiches on the night. Refreshments will also be available for purchase.

Family night is a wonderful way to celebrate the year so come along and enjoy.

The programme for Family Night beginning at 6:00pm is:
6/7 Turpin
4/5 Usher
R/1 Sanders
1/ 2 Tullio
5/6 Redelinghuys
R/1 Owens
2/ 3 Reed /Judd
3/ 4 Opie
6/7 Gogoll

Please note the changes to the order for R/1 Sanders and R/1 Owens.

LOST PROPERTY CUPBOARD
The Lost Property Cupboard is overflowing. Please come and check the cupboard for any lost items. The cupboard will be cleaned out at the end of the term.

Lou Whitehouse and Bernie Meixner
CAMPUS COORDINATORS

YEAR 5/6 SCIENCE
The Year 5/6 class has been marveling at God’s creation in nature. We had the privilege to look through microscopes at examples of the natural world. We looked at the artwork of a butterfly’s wings, the carefully created antenna of a bee, the sand in the sandpit that looks like a desert and the beauty of pollen.

This experience has enabled us to unlock a new world of understanding the importance of appreciation for everything in and around us.

Annecke Redelinghuys and Carla Opie
As we prepare to light the second candle on the Advent Wreath this Sunday, we are reminded of Bethlehem, the place where Jesus was born.

END OF YEAR MASS & LITURGY

This week we have celebrated our end of year liturgies, taking another step in our Advent journey and giving thanks to God for our year. The Year 4-6 Mass and R-3 Liturgy were special celebrations and our last farewell to all who are leaving at the end of the school year. May God be with them on their journey from Our Lady’s.

At these celebrations we brought forward donations of gifts and food for distribution by the St Vincent de Paul Society at Christmas. The generosity of the children and their families is a great example of the understanding that we can help many people to celebrate Christmas when otherwise they may have limited resources to do so. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

CAROLS ON THE OVAL

On Tuesday, December 8 we will be having our annual ‘Carols on the Oval’, which will take place at 5:30pm, with a picnic tea (you may want to bring a deck chair to sit on or a rug), followed by the Concert starting at 6:00pm. Everyone is encouraged to wear something that encourages the Christmas Spirit. We hope to see you there!

END OF YEAR REPORTS

On Monday, December 7 an end of year Report on your child(ren’s) progress throughout the year will be sent home. I hope you take the time to sit down and look back over the year’s work and talk about it with your child(ren).

Please do not hesitate to speak to your child’s teacher if you would like some clarification. Accompanying your child’s End of Year Report will be the name of your child’s class teacher along with the House Team they will be in for 2010.

FOYER DISPLAY

Thank you to Mrs Harris’ / Mrs Boundy’s Rec / Year 1 class for the fantastic Foyer Display about Christmas.

FUNDRAISING 2009

Throughout this year there have been many fundraising events. These have included raising money for Project Compassion and Catholic Missions. Due to the incredible giving nature of our community, we have been able to raise in excess of $7000. Thank you for being so giving and helping us to achieve this figure.

This year our Be Act-a-thon raised $300. Thank you to all the families for helping to raise so much money for those less fortunate and in need.

THANK YOU

Thank you to the tireless number of parents who have contributed to our school community in so many different ways throughout the year. Thank you to the dedicated work of staff and teachers and especially thank you to the students who make our school great! 2009 was a great year thanks to all of you!

COLOURED CLOTHES DAY

This Friday there will be a Coloured Clothes Day as a celebration for the end of the year and as a final fundraiser for Catholic Missions. Your support is much appreciated – gold coin donation.

I wish you all a happy and holy Christmas and may your holidays be relaxing and enjoyable. I look forward to seeing you in 2010!

God Bless

Eleni Vailas
CAMPUS COORDINATOR

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Lucy Bray from Year 2/3 Gray who has read over 300 books this year! Well done on an amazing effort!

Ruth Donellan
LITERACY COORDINATOR

PARENT COMMUNITY

Please remember Christmas Raffle tickets need to be returned to the Front Office no later than the end of school Monday, December 7, 2009, sold or unsold.

If you wish to purchase more tickets, spares are also available at the Front Office.

Thank you.

Sheree Cleary
ON BEHALF OF THE PARENT COMMUNITY

Thank you to the tireless number of parents who have contributed to our school community in so many different ways throughout the year. Thank you to the dedicated work of staff and teachers and especially thank you to the students who make our school great! 2009 was a great year thanks to all of you!
DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTS

With teaching and learning drawing to a close over the next two weeks, students and families are advised of the following collection time for semester reports:

Year 8 & 9 – Tuesday, December 8 @ 12:30pm (Leisure Centre)
Year 10 – Tuesday, December 8 during regular morning caregroup (8:30-9AM)
Year 11 – Tuesday, December 8 between 8:30am – 12pm (Front Office)

FAREWELL & THANKS

I would like to say thank you to the community of Whyalla for your love, support and prayers during the past 8 years. There has been much to celebrate over this time and I feel this experience has been fundamental in my formation as a Catholic leader and educator. I have always felt that coming to Whyalla was a calling - part of God’s plan - and give thanks for having so many good people come into and enrich my life. In particular I would like to thank Terissa Shepherd and Christine Sloan for their leadership, support and friendship and also Fr Monaghan and Fr Paul Bourke for their spiritual guidance and wise counsel. It is a great comfort to continue to serve in the Diocese of Port Pirie and I look forward to those opportunities where we can “catch-up” once more.

Peace and Grace,

Brett Czechowski
SECONDARY CAMPUS LEADER

YEAR 10 LAST DAY

Early Dismissal - Friday Week 8.

The Year 10s will be having their last day this Friday. Students are required to attend morning caregroup at the usual time, followed with a BBQ breakfast, then by caregroup cleanup time, a final assembly and liturgy culminating in an early dismissal at 12:30pm.

On this day students will be given an opportunity to clear out lockers, return textbooks, and have their clearance forms signed.

Reports will be available between 8:30-9.00am next Tuesday, December 8 for collection from caregroup teachers.

Trent Keiper
YEAR 10 COORDINATOR

YEAR 8/9 END OF SCHOOL YEAR ACTIVITIES

On Tuesday, December 8, after caregroup time and a big breakfast here at the St John’s Campus, the Year 8 and 9 cohort will be walking to the Whyalla Leisure Centre. Students will be able to swim, play team games in the sports hall or learn some dance techniques in the Aerobics room. Students will need to pay a $2 entry fee into the Centre. They will be dismissed from the Leisure Centre at 12:30pm. Reports will be distributed to students immediately prior to dismissal. Students who are unable to be collected from the Leisure Centre can walk back to the College, with teachers, to be dismissed.

Christine Duffield  James Keating
YEAR 9 COORDINATOR  YEAR 8 COORDINATOR

SAINT JOHN’S STUDENTS DEFY TREND

Three Year 9 boys from Saint John’s campus defied the trend that female students are more successful in literacy tasks when they gained second, third and fourth place in the Whyalla Writer’s Short Story competition this week. Lachlan Barr gained second place and received $50 and a book voucher for his story, “School Fun?” Third and fourth place went to Ben Liffner and Lee McCann respectively. Ben’s story was entitled “Little Rascal” and Lee’s, “Cup of Tragedy”. Both received cash and book vouchers as their prizes. All three boys are in Mrs Budrys’ 9 White English class.

The theme of the competition was Rogues and Rascals and it was apt that the winners were all boys who were able to draw on their own experience in this area and apply it to their stories!

Mrs Budrys is pictured with the winners of the Whyalla Writer’s Short Story competition. Pictured from left are Ben Liffner, Lee McCann and Lachlan Barr.

Joann Budrys
ENGLISH COORDINATOR
**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**ST TERESA’S CAMPUS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Jean McCarroll</td>
<td>Fiona Moffatt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>No Lunch orders</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

**OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CAMPUS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Rose Cassar</td>
<td>Canteen manager</td>
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</table>

**SAINT JOHN’S CAMPUS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Julie Rotherham</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Judith Hill</td>
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**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**ABBA Solutely Christmas**

*St James Church Corner Ryan Avenue & Lewthwaite Street*

Sunday 06 December 2009
5:45pm Community Tea
7:30pm Performance

We are performing the Christmas Story with the St James Band.

You’ve heard the songs! You’ve seen the movie! Now come along and experience the Christmas Story including some ABBA songs.

---

**Whyalla Ballet School**

Proudly Presents

**QUINTESSENCE**

10th Anniversary

at the MIDDLEBACK THEATRE
Wednesday 9 Dec – 7:30pm
Thursday 10 Dec – 7:30pm

A Whyalla Ballet School Production 2009

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**Whyalla Womens Football Gala Day**

**Whyalla Croatia S.C**

Saturday 17th April

Games Commence at 10am

Women’s Open Competition (13 - 17 Years)
Girls Junior Round Robin (10 - 12 Years)
Girls Grassroots Round Robin (6 - 9 Years)

Please contact Vito Balee 0423 819 870 - whyallawomensfootball@outlook.com or Andy Bateman 0423 850 816 for more information or to register your team’s interest. Places are limited.
Room in your life, room in your home

thinking about fostering?

Foster Carer : Information Session

Thursday 10th December
10.00 - 12.30

Centacare Central Building, 25 Forsyth St, Whyalla

Whyalla needs more foster carers for short term care, long term care and respite care.

children need you — find out how you can help

Call Tanya or Cherie at Centacare on 8640 4900

A Joint initiative with Families SA

Government of South Australia
Department for Families and Communities
Dear Parent,

Are you concerned about your child drinking alcohol? You have every right to be. Australian research shows that 96 percent of kids under the age of 17 have tried alcohol, with 21 percent drinking alcohol every week.

Why should you be concerned?
New research shows young people’s brains can be seriously damaged from drinking alcohol. There is now evidence to suggest that binge drinking destroys the growing brain’s ability to relay information between cells.

One third of 12-17yr old drinkers are consuming at harmful levels. It indicates kids have easy access to alcohol and are drinking too much.

What can you do?
As a parent, you are the most important role model for your child. Your attitude to alcohol and personal behaviour will have a big influence on your child and the decisions they make:

• Talk to your child and be involved in their life – if you know what is going on and can talk openly, you are more likely to be able to influence your child’s attitude towards drinking.
• Know where your teenager is – check where the parties are going to be, whether they are supervised and if alcohol is being served.
• Talk to other parents – presenting a united front makes it easier for everyone.
• Use alcohol responsibly yourself and be a responsible host. Show your children that you can also have fun without alcohol too.
• Encourage your child not to drink until they are at least 16 years old.
• Point out the risks – don’t be afraid to disapprove of unsafe drinking behaviour.
• Inform yourself – log onto www.adf.org.au for more information.

What are we doing?
In most Australian states and territories, it is still legal for anybody to provide your child with any amount of alcohol on private property, without your permission. Without the right laws in place, there is nothing to protect young people against drinking a damaging amount and drinking without parental consent.

In Queensland New South Wales and Tasmania, it is illegal to supply alcohol to kids under the age of 18 without a parent’s permission. We believe the protection of young people in those cases should be extended to all young Australians regardless of where they live.

The Australian Drug Foundation is campaigning to strengthen Australia’s laws to protect young people. Register your support for a national law by visiting www.adf.org.au

Yours sincerely,

John Rogerson
CEO
Australian Drug Foundation
State Election Update, Number 1

State Government Funding

SA Non-Government schools and families play a significant role in educating SA students and we think it’s time this was valued by all political parties. SA Non-Government (Catholic/Independent) schools receive the second lowest State Government (per student) funding across all States and Territories and are well below the Australian (per student) average.

State/Territory Government Grant and Australian Average per Non-Government Student 2007*
(Source: National Report on Schooling in Australia 2007)

We are seeking an increased commitment to SA Non-Government schools and their families from all political parties, including an increase in funding. We want the State Government to commit to negotiate with us on the best way of achieving our goal of being positioned at the Australian (per student) average for State Government funding, which we recognise may take some time.

We ask all political parties to value the significant contribution of SA Non-Government schools and their families and support increasing State Government funding and assistance.

*Note: Graph excludes Northern Territory due to its unique circumstances. The NT per student grant in 2007 was $4,419

Authorised by Garry Le Duff, AISSA, 301 Unley Rd Malvern 5061 and Jane Swift, Catholic Education SA, 116 George St Thebarton 5031.
State Election Update, Number 2

Parent Contributions

Parents and the wider school community are major contributors to the income of Non-Government schools in particular for building programs. On average 41% of a SA Non-Government school’s income comes from school fees, fundraising, donations and other sources, which is more than three times the State Government contribution. Parents also contribute to their school through volunteering on school boards, in classrooms, working bees etc.

Funding Sources for South Australian Non-Government Schools 2007*
(Source: National Report on Schooling in Australia 2007)

The low level of State Government funding to SA Non-Government schools has placed a significant burden on parents and school communities to meet the costs associated with their choice of school. We want the State Government to value the considerable role SA Non-Government school communities play in educating SA students and to provide increased funding support to SA Non-Government schools.

We ask all political parties to value the significant contribution of SA Non-Government schools and their families and support increasing State Government funding and assistance.

Authorised by Gerry Le Duff, AISSA, 301 Unley Rd Malvern 5061 and Jane Swift, Catholic Education SA, 116 George St Thebarton 5031.