Dear parents and caregivers

Generosity of spirit and the accompanying atmosphere was the stand-out! Last Friday the Piazza was alive with great people, great cuisine and great entertainment with our annual International Night. This year we were blessed with balmy weather which made the event relaxed and enjoyable for all. Such evenings would not happen without the hard work and positive spirit of so many volunteers. We thank our parents, staff and students for your contribution to the stalls, entertainment and set-up/cleanup. We also thank the wider community for your patronage of this favourite perennial.

Celebrations are a great opportunity to gather as a community. We look forward to tonight’s Year 12 Graduation, and next week the Year 7 celebrations. We also have Prize Night coming up, with families posted letters this week, if their child has been awarded a prize for their efforts and achievement this year. Amongst these celebrations of people’s time at the college is the message of farewell. Please join us in celebrating Sister Robyn’s time in Whyalla by coming along to the 10.30 Mass at OLHC on Sunday, December 5, followed by a morning tea.

This week the Campus Consolidation Committee met with consultants from Catholic Education to discuss the process and planning needed in the next 5 years to work towards developing a new primary site. As the process takes time, we cannot accurately predict when we would actually have a primary campus ready for students to move. The financing, master-planning and development will easily swallow up the next five years, if not more. This implies that there will still be stability in your child’s current primary site for many years to come. Our aim will be to operate as one college, however we value the “small schoolness” we currently have, and will be factoring this special feature into the design of any new campus. With land acquisition, capital development applications and many hoops to jump through, our work will still be very much behind the scenes for a few years.

Meanwhile we continue to get excited about the evolution of the new science centre and gymnasium, with the first part of the gym floor poured next Monday and the back of science now taking shape with its new addition. Both of these facilities are for whole school access and will be considered in future timetabling accordingly.

Luke 21: 1-4
**CATHOLICS AND MARRIAGE**

I have been reflecting on the blessings our community receives through faithful, committed married couples. For Catholics, marriage is a sacrament of God’s love. Being married, for Catholics, means a couple do their very best to imitate Christ’s love for the church, and they actively seek the help of God in prayer for each other and for their marriage, and for the marriages of their friends.

“Christ dwells with them, gives them the strength to take up their crosses and so follow him, to rise again after they have fallen, to forgive one another, to bear one another’s burdens, and to love one another with supernatural, tender and fruitful love.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1642).

For Catholics, being married in a Catholic ceremony, before a priest, is a celebration of a sacrament, and a commitment to “love one another as I have loved you” (John 15:12).

There can be circumstances where, for compelling pastoral reasons, and with the permission of the Bishop, a Catholic might be married validly in the church of his or her non-Catholic spouse, or in another place. Our Bishop will always generously consider any request for permission to do this.

If a Catholic person, having been unaware of the Church’s teaching on marriage, has been married “outside the Catholic Church”, is there anything that can be done?

Yes, there is! The couple and their priest can organise a simple blessing ceremony, in which the spouses renew their wedding consent, and receive the nuptial blessing of the church. In a spirit of prayer, this marriage is then recognised by the couple and the church as a vocation, their response to God’s unconditional love for them, and they then may reap the benefits of all the graces of this wonderful sacrament.

Your parish team is always available, to talk with you about your own journey in married life, and how the parish can support you in answering God’s call to you.

Fr Jim Monaghan
ON BEHALF OF THE PARISH TEAM

### WEEKEND MASS TIMES

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**RELIGIOUS DIMENSION**

Waiting in joyful hope for the coming of our saviour, Jesus Christ.

The Season of Advent begins this Sunday. Advent is a time of preparation extending over four Sundays before Christmas. We prepare and wait expectantly for a great event that is going to happen.

We are preparing for Jesus to come into our hearts and homes, full of hope and joy to prepare ourselves properly to celebrate Jesus’ birth. We also celebrate the coming of Christ in our lives through grace and the Sacrament of Holy Communion and we also wait for his anticipated return.

How can we prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ at Christmas? We can try to understand and know the meaning of the Christmas story. We can do this by creating a nativity as a family and bring it to Mass to be blessed. The nativity can then be kept at home during Advent as a reminder of what we are waiting for at this time of year. There will be a Blessing of the Crib (nativity) on the weekend of the 4th and 5th of December. We can do things together as a family to prepare for Christmas such as attending Mass during Advent, make preparations for family meals together or visiting someone who is homebound or in a nursing home.

How will you prepare during Advent this year?

Bernie Meixner
REC - STC

**An Advent Prayer**

Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son. Amen.

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**UNIFORM SHOP**

Opening hours prior to school commencement in 2011 will be: **8:30am-4:30pm on**

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**Opening Hours**

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Kerry Azzopardi  Sharron Waldron
Toal Street, Whyalla Stuart
Ph: 8649 3168
If there was one positive to come out of the terrible Victorian bushfires it was the astounding response of ordinary Australians to the plight of the bushfire victims. It seemed everyone wanted to do something to ease their burden.

Helping out wasn’t just left up to adults. Kids of all ages did their bit. It seems there wasn’t a school that didn’t have a sausage sizzle, free dress day or fund-raiser of some type. Kids everywhere passed on used toys, donated their pocket money, or volunteered to help in any way they could.

I heard the story of a nine year old whose mum went into his bedroom to growl at him for being up too late. She found him busy emptying his money box into little plastic bags, ready to donate at the school bushfire appeal next day. This mother was pretty chuffed as she knew the money box represented over 6 months pocket money, including Christmas contributions. She then helped him look through his drawers for any coins that he may have missed. There are plenty of stories like this showing the generosity of Australian kids.

The trick now is to keep alive this spirit of generosity that has been triggered by this tragedy. With families shrinking, kids get fewer opportunities to help others than before. They are less likely to help out at home without being paid. And of course, young children are egocentric by nature so giving is not exactly a high priority for them. But part of a parent’s job is to remind children that the world doesn’t revolve around them.

In the eagerness to get kids off to a good start in life, a spirit of generosity is one quality that parents can easily overlook. Developing independence and personal competencies tend to be higher on most parents’ wish lists for their kids.

But developing a sense of sharing in kids is really important for their future relationships as well as the well-being of our communities. Children who are able to share their time, space and possessions generally have more friends and experience more success than those who are self-centred and mean spirited.

Here are four practical ways to keep the spirit of generosity alive in your kids:

1. Encourage them to give toys, books and clothes away when they have finished with them.
2. Expect them to do at least one job at home each day that’s not tied to pocket-money.
3. Ask them to put away a small amount of pocket-money each week for charity or to help others.
4. Encourage them to visit, or even help, an elderly or sick neighbour, if safe to do so.
It is not much longer until the end of the College year and I ask that all parents and caregivers remain vigilant when dropping or collecting their children to and from school. Please do not exceed the speed limit! Also please ensure that you keep a watchful eye out for our children.

All are welcome to come and support the Samaritan College float in the Whyalla Pageant. We would love your support and presence.

Pat Page
PRIMARY CAMPUS LEADER

END OF YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Monday, November 29 - Reception to Year 3 End of Year Liturgy - 9:30am at OLHC Church.

Tuesday, November 30 - Year 4 – 7 Mass - 9:45am St Teresa’s Church.

Wednesday, December 1 - OLHC Campus Carols Night - 6:00pm

Thursday, December 2 - Year 7 Celebration of Primary Years Mass - 7:00pm St Teresa’s Church

Friday, December 3 - Year 7 Activity Day - Come to school as normal.

Friday, December 3 - St Teresa’s Family Night - 6:00pm St T’s Campus

LITURGIES AND ASSEMBLIES

OLHC Campus have no more liturgies for the year.

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL COLLECTIONS

As we approach Advent and the school term draws near to its end, we spare a thought for those families that will go without this Christmas. As a Catholic community we ask for your help to make a difference in the lives of many families by donating to the St Vinnie’s Christmas appeal.

Please donate nonperishable food items or toys for children of any age. Donations can be made to your child’s class. All campuses will participate in this initiative.

BLESSING OF THE CRIB

All families are invited to attend the blessing of the Crib (Nativity Scene) on the weekend of the 4th and 5th of December. You are invited to bring your nativity scene that you use at home and have it blessed. Alternatively you may like to make a nativity scene as a family activity and bring it to be blessed. This is a lovely way to focus our thoughts on the meaning of the Advent season and prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

3/4 Opie have been talking about the true meaning of Christmas and thinking about those people who will go without this Christmas season. Together the children donated small, nonperishable items to make up ‘Shoe Boxes of Love’ for families with young children in the hopes of making a small difference this Christmas! We hope this small gesture will help bring a ray of hope and happiness to some families this Christmas season. Students are pictured below with their ‘Shoe Boxes of Love’.

Carla Opie
TEACHER 3/4

LOGO COMPETITION

Thank you to all the students who participated within the Logo Competition and the teachers who helped support the Parish in this venture.

We are happy to say that all the logos presented were all very creative and the students and teachers should all be commended. Being a competition however there needs to be some winners. The winning Logos for the design, creativity and who met the criteria determined by the team will be notified and their logo last week was displayed in the St Teresa’s Church and this week be displayed in the Our Lady’s Church. These students will also receive a small prize from the Parish. Please note the final decision about the logo for the Catholic Parish of Whyalla will be determined by the Parish Council at a later date.

Amiee Tullio
ON BEHALF OF THE VISION STATEMENT AND LOGO DEVELOPMENT TEAM.

SRC AT OUR OLHC CAMPUS

Every term the our SRC raises money for a charity. This term we are raising money for Caritas Australia. Caritas Australia provides many opportunities to individuals, families and communities around the world, including Australia, to better their lives.

On this Friday November 26 the SRC will be holding a junior and senior daylight disco. The SRC have called it “A Dayclub – just like a Nightclub but during the day!” Both events will take place in the Vessey Unit. The Reception – Year 2/3 “Dayclub” will be from 12:00 – 12:45pm and the Year 3/4 – Year 6 “Dayclub” will be from 2:00 – 3:00pm.

For a gold coin donation the children can wear coloured clothes or dress up as something starting with an S or an R or a C.

This is an opportunity to have some fun and to raise money for a worthy cause.

Rebecca Sinclair
SRC COORDINATOR
PRIZE NIGHT

This important event will be held on Monday December 6 at 7:00pm at the Middleback Theatre. Families and students are being or have been informed this week if they have won an award. Tickets for families of winners can be purchased from the Middleback Theatre Box Office. You need to alert the Box Office that your child has won an award as tickets for the public only go on sale a few days prior to the night. Prize winning students do not need to buy a seat – they have a special area to sit in. Dr Salvatore Pepe, a world renowned heart specialist and former Saint John’s College student will be the guest of honour.

EVENTS

Please take note of the various events open to parents and family. Sports Day tomorrow, the Civics Fair for Year 10s next week, the Ancient Civilisation Fair next week and of course, Prize Night.

THANKYOU

A big thank you is extended to Greg Flanegan for the donation of a piano to our music department. A second instrument will be very helpful in our practice rooms.

Damien Judd
SECONDARY CAMPUS LEADER

LIONS YOUTH OF THE YEAR QUEST

Last Wednesday, two Year 11 students, Izaak Gurney and Kristina Kotsomitis, competed in the Lions Club Youth of the Year Quest final. The students went through an interview process and faced a series of questions from a panel of judges made up of local professionals and business leaders.

Later in the evening, the students faced a public speaking challenge. They were given two impromptu questions on current issues and were required to respond within a set time-frame. Both Izaak and Kristina remained cool under pressure, giving thoughtful, detailed responses.

Students were then required to deliver a prepared five minute speech on a topic of their choosing. Kristina delivered a passionate speech about the younger generation’s loss of language skills due to texting and social networking and the wide-ranging effects this is having. Izaak gave a thought-provoking monologue on the importance of commemorating Remembrance Day, the role of the military in a democratic society and the possibility of a world in which war is no longer a reality.

Judges commented on the high calibre of students from both Samaritan College and Eyre High School. Congratulations to Izaak Gurney who was named the overall winner and also awarded the Public Speaking prize. Izaak now goes on to compete in the Regional Final in Cleve in February next year. Well done to Izaak and Kristina for their preparation and confident delivery on the night. I encourage the current Year 10 students to consider applying for the Youth of the Year Quest in 2011.

Rachel Gould.

THE SAMARITAN COLLEGE YEAR 10 CIVICS EXPO

Next week Year 10 students will be involved in the organization of a Civics Expo as part of their PLP (a compulsory unit of the new SACE). Students will be focusing on developing their knowledge and experience of citizenship and community service during this program. Each student is required to organise and volunteer a minimum of 3-6 hours of their time to a voluntary organization and reflect upon this experience. After their community service experience the Civics Expo will be held during Week 8 at Samaritan college. It is my pleasure to invite you to attend this celebration of students’ achievements and participate in the judging of the best Civics Display. The opportunity exists for the winning team to win $100 for their nominated charity.

During Civics week students complete a range of individual and collaborative activities based on their Community Service experiences. These activities include creating visual displays of their Community Service exploits. Students are to show through their personal reflection and collaborative promotional display a comprehensive understanding, independent development, and capable demonstration of ways in which the student contributes, or can contribute, to the wider community (citizenship). Given the hands-on nature of these tasks, students are permitted to wear their PE uniforms during Week 8. The Samaritan College Civics Expo will be held at:

WHERE: SAINT JOHN’S CAMPUS, CBC (directions available from reception on the night).

WHEN: 7:00pm - 8:00pm Wednesday December 1

WHO: All Year 10 Students

INVITED: Family, Students, Community and Invited Judges

As part of week 8 the following events are planned:

☐ Monday and Tuesday – students organise to volunteer their time to work with one of Whyalla’s many volunteer and community organisations. This voluntary service may be completed earlier as with the ‘Relay for Life’ event, however, students need to obtain written verification of their participation. Students who have finished or do not attend Community Service during this time will be required to attend school as usual on these days. Most of the group work or reflections should be completed at school, however, it is expected students spend some homework time on this.

☐ Wednesday – all students should be in attendance to complete tasks associated with their PLP completion and display set-up.

The week culminates in a Community Service Expo Wednesday night. This extravaganza will take place in the CBC classrooms from 7:00 – 8:00pm. Parents and friends of the Samaritan College community are warmly invited to attend.

Heidi Korossy
HPD COORDINATOR
**UPDATE ON FEES**

Each year the College budget is prepared and constantly reviewed by the Board’s Finance Committee. It is inevitable that in keeping with inflation and the many internal cost requirements of running a school, an increase is required to meet all costs.

Although a 7% recommendation was made by Catholic Education, South Australia, the Board has opted for a 5% increase, in order to consider the needs of families along with the realities of sound economic planning for the school.

Please find the 2011 fee schedule as an insert in this newsletter.

Any families wishing to apply for assistance within the Tier structure are invited to apply at the beginning of 2011 to the Co-Principal.

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**CANTEEN ROSTERS**

Monday, November 22 – Friday, November 26

**ST TERESA’S CAMPUS**

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<td>Karen Taylor</td>
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<td>Judy Kneebone Janette Leevess</td>
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Annette Cameron
CANTEEN MANAGER

**OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CAMPUS**

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Rose Cassar
CANTEEN MANAGER

**SAINT JOHN’S CAMPUS**

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<td>Sue Clements</td>
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<td>Anneli Hardman</td>
<td>Julie Rotherham</td>
<td>Julia McMahon Nicola Faulds</td>
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Marg Coad
CANTEEN MANAGER

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**SYMBOL SLEUTHS**

**WINNERS FROM LAST WEEK**

Last week's answers were:

Sr Robyn

Tapiwa Mativengo
STC
6/7 Baverstock

Melinda T
OLHCC
Yr 4/5 Seals

Sam Dowling
SJC
10 Red

Congratulations to our winners. Thank you to all our participants for entering this year.