Dear Parents/Caregivers,

"Listen with the ear of the heart" Saint Benedict

This week at our various Prize, carols and family Nights we have been farewelling Mrs Christine Sloan as she retires from dedicating 39 years to educating the children of Whyalla. She has been a part of the Catholic education tradition as a student, teacher and leader for 55 years, with her leadership in the last 14 years making all the difference to thousands of children.

Chris is the longest serving Whyalla Principal and has continually expanded her capacity to lead an R-12 community and diversify her influence in the last five years as a significant part of the amalgamation story of Samaritan College. She has formed many young teachers and has always been passionate about learning and supporting all families to assist young people to realise their potential. Chris has also recognised and celebrated the service that the formation of young teachers in regional schools provides to our system.

As a country educator, Chris has worked within the context of a rich and diverse community, strong traditions, servant leadership, an ethic of care and compassion, limited budgets, dynamic staff and an ever evolving population. All of this has been underpinned by a strong faith life and commitment to service rather than any desire for badge of office or ambition call. As such, Chris’ humility, sense of partnership and wisdom will be missed. As a Co-Principal it has been a pleasure to work with her in a paradigm not understood by many. She has assisted our community in entering into the call to distributed leadership and has served as role model to others as well as supporter of myself as co-leader. I wish to acknowledge her service to Catholic education and remind us all of the importance of recognizing the whole story of the individual in the years that have gone before us as well as the more recent times.

Chris’ desire for the best for all will continue, and her ongoing presence in our local community will be a blessing as part of country lifestyle. Please congratulate her in your own personalised ways, despite her absence at this time. As part of a system, we extend gratitude to Chris for her service to the Catholic and secular families of Whyalla, who have sought choice in educating their children. We also thank Chris for her wider commitment to CESA and professional associations over time. As we look forward into 2013, we know that Chris’ legacy will support us as we continue to be agents of change and innovation, and stewards of tradition and moral purpose.

TERISSA SHEPHERD
CO-PRINCIPAL

CHRIS SLOAN
CO-PRINCIPAL
Greetings as we in Whyalla are coping with the destruction of the storms on Friday night and trying to attend to many celebrations and preparations for Christmas. I think it is important for us to stop and reflect on why we celebrate Christmas.

It is the season when we celebrate the great love of God for each of us shown by Jesus coming to live among us. Perhaps we could in our families take five or ten minutes each day to stop and ask ourselves how we can bring God's love to our world.

I was given this story while on retreat and it gave me much to reflect on.

An old Cherokee chief was teaching his grandson about life.....

“A fight is going on inside me,” he said to the boy. “It is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves.

One is evil – he is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, self-doubt, and ego.

The other is good – he is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, truth, compassion and faith.

This same fight is going on inside you – and in every person, too.”

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather,

Which wolf will win?”

The old chief simply replied, “The one you feed.”

Which wolf do I feed? Is our world a better place for the joy, the love, the compassion .... I bring to our world?

We pray – Jesus you are the face of God’s compassion hidden in each human life. Give us the eyes to see and the ears to hear the needs of our brothers and sisters. Give us generous hearts ready to reach out to you in every person. May the peace, love and joy of Jesus be with each of you this Christmas.

PARISH NEWS in preparation for Christmas

We encourage you to bring along your crib (or a figure from the crib) to be blessed this weekend December 8&9. This will take place at all Masses.

On December 24 the Christmas Family Mass will be celebrated at both Churches – St Teresa's and Our Lady's at 6:30pm. Any children who would like to participate by reading, praying a prayer or carrying up the offertory gifts are invited to PRACTICE at St Teresa's on Monday, December 10 at 4pm and at Our Lady's after 10:30am Mass on Sunday, December 9.

Parish Reconciliation at St Teresa's Thursday, December at 7 pm and at Our Lady's, Tuesday December 18 at 7pm.

Sister Helen Mills
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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<td>Sunday 8:30am</td>
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UNIFORM SHOP

In preparation for 2013 the Uniform Shop will be open normal hours in the final week of term.

Wednesday, December 12 - 8:00am-10:30am

Thursday, December 13 - 1:00pm-4:30pm

In the new year the uniform shop will be open prior to school returning on the following dates.

Monday to Friday

January 21-25, 2013

8:30am-4:30pm

CLOSED Monday, January 28 (public holiday)

School resumes January 29

OSHC END OF YEAR DISCO

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

5:00PM TO 6:00PM

GOLD COIN DONATION

ANY CHILD WHO HAS ATTENDED OSHC THIS YEAR IS WELCOME
Dear Parents

Here’s a good insight into life: “Life is not about being better than someone else. It is about striving to be better than you used to be.” (Author Unknown.)

St Augustine had another good insight when he wrote: “When people choose to withdraw far from a fire, the fire continues to give warmth, but they grow cold. When people choose to withdraw far from the light, the light continues to be bright in itself but they are in darkness. This is also the case when people withdraw from God.”

And withdraw from God we all do, not out of disbelief necessarily, but mostly out of forgetfulness, because we are just too busy with the rest of life. Take for example the Bethlehem Innkeeper who told Mary and Joseph that there was no room for them in his inn. This did not mean that he was a bad person; he was just very busy taking care of his customers, providing for their needs and keeping the peace. Unfortunately, when the most important birth in history took place in his backyard, he missed it entirely, not because he was a bad person, he was just too busy.

With Christmas just around the corner, we might be too busy to give attention to what we are actually commemorating. Those who live “by the cash register” will do everything they can to keep our attention on our wallets and purses. The Three Wise Men seem to have had “fire” and the “light” that are God’s love and compassion. For directions. It’s about a fresh start, getting closer to the “fire” and the “light” that are God’s love and compassion.

Advent invites us to prepare for the commemoration of God’s coming by taking time to have a closer look inside ourselves away from the busy outside. This looking inside is not about remorse or regret, nor about listing ways life over the past year could have been different; it’s not about wishing we were better people. It’s about forward movement, getting new bearings, relying more on God for directions. It’s about a fresh start, getting closer to the “fire” and the “light” that are God’s love and compassion.

Then: “The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

As well, Advent is a time to: “Accept surprises that upset your plans and turn your day and – who knows – to your life. It is not chance. Leave the Father …….. to Himself weave the pattern of your days.”

Peace and Best Wishes.

Bernie Meixner
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL IN RELIGIOUS IDENTITY & MISSION

COMMUNITY NEWS

Get ready for the Playground Amazing Race!

Kids, are you looking for something exciting to do over the Summer holidays? Why not get the whole family involved in the OPAL program’s Playground Amazing Race!

Think Feet First as you race around Whyalla, exploring new playgrounds, rediscovering old favorites and looking for clues to complete the challenge. Each playground will have its own checkpoint question, make it your mission to find the answer and you can be in the running for some great prizes.

The Playground Amazing Race will run from December 15th 2012 – January 23rd 2013. Maps and entry forms will be available through your school, kindy and childcare centre. These will also be available at the Whyalla Public Library and Whyalla City Council building.

You will need to complete the entry form and return to either the library or Whyalla City Council building before Wednesday 23rd January 2013 to be in the running for prizes. Prize winners will be notified after this date.

So get outside this Summer, be active and make the most of the school holidays with a fun activity the whole family can enjoy!!
My dear Brothers and Sisters

Faced with the revelations in the media in recent times, the sheer volume and the greatly disturbing nature of them, in conjunction with a rather hard edge to some (but not all) of the reporting, the average Catholic person, be they lay or ordained or Religious, must be experiencing a certain amount of dismay.

As Bishop of the diocese, the first thing I need to say to you is that we welcome the Royal Commission, seeing it as an opportunity to find out the truth, to bring light on these issues, seeing it as an occasion for the Church to be transparent, seeing it as a means by which victims might have their voices heard and justice be done, and, we would pray, healing.

In a radio interview recently, the reporter said to Bishop Pat Power that it had been “a tumultuous week” for the Church. Bishop Power’s response was that although it has been a tumultuous week for the Church, for many of the victims of abuse at the hands of Church personnel, be they ordained or lay, it had been a tumultuous life.

While not shrinking from a clear vision that must keep the victims at the forefront of our consideration, and not wishing to put image above other needs in compassion and justice, it remains true that among those being interviewed there are some who make false claims, such as the accusation that the Church prevents victims from going to the Police. The opposite is true; victims are encouraged to go to the Police. There is also the use of the term “the Catholic Church”. In various Reports broadcast on the media statements are made that “the Catholic Church” shielded offenders, or “the Catholic Church” obscured Police investigations, etc. It was not “the Catholic Church” who did that; it was certain very sadly misguided, quite erroneous individuals within the Church. The Catholic Church is you and I, our families, those who sit in our congregations, those who taught us, and so on. They or we have not been obstructing Police, or preventing investigations.
etc. It is unfair to identify the whole Church with individuals who have failed to act or betrayed their trust.

Furthermore, while confessing that evil things have been done by people whose vocation called them to a life of holiness, not evil, and by people in our schools and other works who were called to care for the young, not hurt them, we should not cringe or go into denial about all the good the Church continues to do.

Our Church has the care of 700,000 children in its schools, one in five school children in Australia. Outside the Government, the Catholic hospitals and Homes for the Aged are the largest caring institution in the Country. So there is great care for people at both edges of life, the young and the frail. St Vincent de Paul is the largest charitable organisation in the Country, attending to the needs of thousands of people. Centacare reaches out to people who are troubled and victims of social structures. The collective good is enormous. And added to all this there is the daily pastoral work, the acts of kindness and goodness that go on day after day in our parishes and schools, as priests and teachers and nurses and carers live out their vocations in truth. Our Church is an instrument for so much good in our society; the evil acts of some cannot negate that.

In the Council of Trent in the sixteenth century, and in the Vatican Council fifty years ago, the Church described itself as “always in need of reform”. How true that is! We pray that through the distress of these times we will as Church be purified to live our Christian lives better, that we will be the Body of Christ working in the world in goodness and purity. We pray that we will never take our eyes off those who need our care, especially those who have been hurt by personnel of the Church. If the Royal Commission can help us in this then it is a good thing.

We must learn from this, and ensure that we have in place all the structures and processes to ensure the safety of young ones, and the removal of people who would inflict harm and hurt on those entrusted to us. Jesus Himself was particularly strong on those who caused harm to children, so may our Church continue its vocation to live in His image, with trust and fidelity.

Yours in Christ

+ Gregory O’Kelly SJ
Bishop of the Diocese of Port Pirie

20th November 2012
It is hard to believe that we’ve come to the end of another school year. As we reflect on the year we remember all that has happened and give thanks to God for the many blessings we have received during this year.

As this is my final newsletter for this year and taking a year’s leave in 2013, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the wonderful support and partnership you have given throughout my 16 years at Samaritan College / Our Lady Help of Christians School. It is hard to believe where the years have gone, but as I reflect there have been many wonderful moments, achievements, growth within the College, celebrations, learning and excellence.

I especially thank the primary staff of Samaritan College. They are a professional, enthusiastic and dedicated group of people and I thank them for their commitment and response to each child’s learning needs. As a school community you should feel very proud of them. Your children are indeed very fortunate to have such an excellent group of staff in classrooms, in the office and in supporting roles, watching over their spiritual and academic development. Their commitment towards providing the best learning and ensuring that our school vision is alive in all the classrooms is exemplary. It has been a privilege to assist with the mission of developing a learning school where learning is accessible to all.

To all the students I thank you for your energy towards learning, immersion and involvement in our Samaritan story. You help make Samaritan College an outstanding place to be and my memories of the wonderful learning and celebrations will never be forgotten.

Finally, I take with me wonderful memories, stories and the spirit of Samaritan College that I have been blessed to be part of over the last 16 years. To all the students, parents and staff, thank you and farewell for another year!

May you share very joy filled holidays with your families and friends and return in the year ready to engage in another exciting year at Samaritan College. May God bless you all a very blessed, holy and joy filled Christmas and New Year.

END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

Friday, December 7
St Teresa’s Family Night
6:00pm (arrival) for a 6:30 pm (start) St Teresa’s Campus

Please arrive early to find a seat. BBQ tea, drinks and disco to conclude the evening.

END OF YEAR REPORTS

The End of Year Reports will be sent home on Monday, December 10, as will the information regarding which class your child will be in next year.

It is that time of the year again where teachers have been extremely busy writing the primary end of year reports. On Monday of Week 10, December 10, the reports for the last two semesters will be distributed. The reports will be a comprehensive summary of the students’ learning for the whole year. Parents will be able to see their child’s progress in their learning.

At times, there has been confusion in regards to the grades that are awarded to students. Students receiving a ‘C’ grade should be congratulated on this achievement, as they are performing at the expected requirement of their year level. Grades above a ‘C’ indicate the development of higher order thinking skills, which enable a student to confidently transfer new learning to various situations. A letter explaining the grading system further will be featured in the end of year report.

2013 CLASSES

On Tuesday, December 11 at 9 am, the students will be placed in their 2013 class and will spend the morning with their new teacher.

Each year we receive calls regarding changing the placement of students because they are disappointed about not being with friends and having to change teacher. Changing student placements are not as simple as moving one child from one class to another. A great amount of consultation with parents and teachers has already taken place, therefore placements are final. Please be positive and be supportive of students in this transition from one year to the next.

THANK YOU

Thank you to the tireless number of parents who have contributed to our College 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! 2012 was a great year thanks to all of you!

May the peace and love of Christ be with you all this Christmas.

Yours in Faith, Wisdom & Compassion

Eleni Vailas
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

LANGUAGE PERFECT CHALLENGE

We are the 22nd school internationally out of 28 schools in our category for 2012. We have 71 participants from Years 4, 5, 6 & 7. We have earned 12 Credit, Bronze, Silver and Gold achievement certificates. The average student has completed an impressive 1525 questions in 5 hours online. The challenge ends December 31, 2012 ☃️

Keep up the good work! Signora Baverstock
CONGRATULATIONS

Well done to all our prize winners on Monday night, especially to those who were acknowledged for their service or effort or their commitment to faith.

Special congratulations to the 14 senior students who will form our Senior Student Council in 2013:

Rhiannon Butt
Tyler Callaghan
Jacob Castle
Kelsey Coad
Joshua Deluao
Lauren Goodwin
Megan Hawes
Ethan Klobuchar
Kosta Kotsomitis
Kar-Lee Labuschagne
Emelia Manisalis
Lauren McLeod
Ashley Watkins
Zachary Whitehouse

A special congratulations to Tyler Callaghan and Kelsey Coad who will be the College’s Head Boy and Girl in 2013 and to Jacob Castle and Lauren Goodwin for being their deputies.

Another pleasing aspect to Prize Night was the amount of students who received an award for the first time.

HATS

Have you planned how to store your child’s hat over summer? Please assess them for cleanliness and neatness. If graffitied or torn, a new one needs to be purchased before school resumes. It will be needed on day one in 2013.

FINAL DAYS AND TIMES

Year 10s finish tomorrow at 1pm and Year 8s and 9s finish at 3:25pm on Tuesday. It is still important that if you choose to keep your child home for these last few days that you let the College know.

As I change into a new role in 2013, I wish all our secondary campus families a holy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

SACE MATTERS

This week I would like to alert parents to a report on the SACE website that might be of interest to you and your son/daughter. As with any major change that an organisation undergoes there is a review after implementation and based on the review changes may be made. This has been the case with the SACE, which has now been in place for two years. You might have seen some reference made to this review in the news lately, especially in relation to the Research Project. It is well worth a read of this review report and related news articles.


STAGE 2 RESULTS

Year 11 and 12 students are reminded to check, before the results release date, that they can access their information and results through the ‘Online Tools’ on the SACE website. This website experiences an incredible amount of traffic on that day and therefore it would be very difficult to change passwords etc….This can be done well before the big day (at the moment on December 19) to avoid not being able to access the site. Instructions on how to access ‘Quick results’ is available on our website through the ‘Students’ tab.

Maresa Lyons
ACTING SACE COORDINATOR

TERMINAL 4 ITALIAN

Each term, we share the learning activities of two year levels at the primary campuses.

In Year 1/2, we are sharing our learning with our families. Each child has had the opportunity to make a ‘Colours of the Rainbow’ book to take home to teach their families. It is wonderful to see children taking on the role of Italian teacher, using their book to teach numbers and name items illustrated in their flip books.

Perhaps you can practice some phrases with your child:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Italian</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>rosso</td>
<td>red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arancione</td>
<td>orange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>giallo</td>
<td>yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>verde</td>
<td>green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blu</td>
<td>dark blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>viola</td>
<td>purple</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In Year 5/6, we are learning to describe identity, introduce our friends, favourite subject and school activities.

Perhaps you can practice some phrases with your child:

Io sono nella squadra di Rice per il giorno degli sport. I am in the Rice house team.

I miei amici si chiamano Connor e Jacob. My friends are Connor and Jacob.

Le mie materie preferite sono la matematica e l’educazione fisica.

My favourite school subjects are Mathematics and Physical Education.

Signora Baverstock
## Canteen Rosters

**ST TERESA’S CAMPUS**
- **Mon:** Jean McCarroll
- **Tue:** no lunches

**OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CAMPUS**
- **Mon:** no help required
- **Tue:** no help required

**SAINT JOHN’S CAMPUS**
- **Mon:** Luisa Damiani
- **Tue:** Helen Butt

A big thank you to all our volunteers that work in our school canteens. Your help is very much appreciated. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and safe holidays.

*Annette Cameron  
CANTEEN MANAGER*  
*Rose Cassar  
CANTEEN MANAGER*  
*Marg Coad  
CANTEEN MANAGER*

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## Community News

**The Combined LIONS Clubs of Whyalla**

**PROUDLY PRESENT...**

- Yummy food & drinks
- Mas & Zanch
- Free kids face painting
- Santa!

**Carols in the Park**

- **2012**
- **SUNDAY 16th DECEMBER**
- 7.15pm Civic Park

**www.whyallacarols.com**

**Giggly Kids**

- Musical Entertainment

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8 of 8  
December 6, 2012