from the principal

Reflection... In our prayer this week we are mindful of the season of Lent. We also keep in our thoughts our Year 12 students who face the challenges of Half-Yearly Examinations, in many cases with distractions and difficulties brought about by other issues in their lives.

Lord, we thank you.
You have watched over our journeying
and blessed our lives with the signs of your presence.
Continue to bless our searching – our vision – our loving
and our witnessing, now and always.

Live Jesus in our hearts . . .

Information Nights... Throughout February we have the opportunity to meet and speak with parents of both our senior year groups, and particularly for our Year 12 students, check progress with an “early” Parent/Teacher/Student evening. I have been particularly pleased by the positive response we have received from parents to these evenings. Further, I thank Mr Egan and Ms Pussich, the Principals of De La Salle Caringbah and OLMC Burraneer respectively, for their invitation to speak at their College’s Year 10 Information Nights. These evenings are significant in forming strong partnerships and understanding expectations that are key to the shared education of our young men and women.

Please note, our Information Evening for the Year 11 – 2013 enrolment is set down for Monday 7 May, at 7.00 pm in Carmody Hall.

Year 12 Examinations... Our Year 12 students should now be preparing for their Half-Yearly Examinations. Ideas and suggestions gleaned from our Year 12 Study Skills Day should be “put into practice”. Let’s remember that many students at the College are studying hard and preparing for these exams – that is to be applauded and encouraged. It is what we, and students studying the HSC in many other schools do!

To support this preparation we commence next week the first of our “intensive writing workshops”. We are very pleased to have on staff the expertise of Mrs Maureen Johnson, who will lead these workshops.

College Laptop Computers (& other devices)... While the distribution of College laptops to students went smoothly, it soon became apparent that we had some imaging and misuse issues to manage. I stress again that the College laptop will be available to students on the understanding that:

1. The guidelines set down in the CEO user Agreement Policy that was signed by all students and a parent.
2. The laptops, and all electronic devices brought on to the College grounds, are strictly used for educational purposes.

College Fees... At the time of enrolment the expectations around and commitment to paying College fees was made clear to all parents. Term 1 accounts have now been distributed. Please attend to the payment agreed.

If however, family circumstances have changed such that issues and potential difficulties with payment have arisen, then it is essential you contact my Assistant Mrs Natalie Davies at the College to arrange a meeting to discuss these issues. Such meetings are confidential.

Phil Gane
Principal
from the re coordinator

Our Ash Wednesday... liturgy on 22 February presented the community with the theme for Caritas 2012: ‘if you want peace work for justice.’ This involves raising awareness of injustices in our world, an awareness of social justice projects and fund raising initiatives.

During Lent our students were given the challenge to not only give ‘donations’ but also give of their talents to raise funds for Caritas – via Project Compassion. Over the last two weeks we have begun heats for the talent search ‘De La’s Got Talent’ where students share their talents and members of the community donate to be part of the audience. So far the school has raised over $300. Congratulations to our talented students and an acknowledgement to Mrs Danielle Fuller for her efforts in organizing this ongoing event. Other classes have also found ways to raise funds and contribute to Caritas – these initiatives reflect our community spirit and really focus on the meaning of Lent.

Tuesday, March 6: 38 Year 11 students spent the day training to be Lasallian Youth Leaders. These students were trained to be leaders. They were taught how to present information clearly, organize large groups and speak about their personal spirituality. Thank you to our former students:

Amelia Croucher and Courtney Harrison who spoke about their experiences in Balgo Hills, where they worked with the Lasallian community at an indigenous school. Thank you to Luke Janssen and Emily Vassilacos who also made themselves available to work with the students and share their skills. Simone McGill, our Lasallian Youth Minister organised and facilitated this day, with the help of the Lasallian Youth Team. I commend the Year 11’s for volunteering to be take part in this training day. They will now prepare to lead the Year 6 Spirituality Day on 29 March.

Mrs Maree Cullen
RE Coordinator

Consultation with Archbishop George Pell... On Thursday the 23rd of February Kate Janssen and Samuel McGill attended the Cardinal’s Consultation Evening with representatives from other Catholic Schools across the Sydney Archdiocese. At Pentecost, Cardinal Pell releases a statement to the youth of Sydney on different issues. Last year it was on Euthanasia. This year the message is focusing on Sin and Forgiveness. The Cardinal met with senior students to gain their perspective. The Keynote address, given by Anthony Cleary, Director of Religious Education for the CEO, discussed matters challenging contemporary society. Students were then given the opportunity to share their views with the others and they discussed specific issues relating to sin and forgiveness. This was then shared with the Archbishop. It was an evening of information, sharing and collaboration, which will contribute to the Pentecostal Statement.

Kate Janssen & Sam McGill
Students

from the curriculum coordinator

Year 12 Half Yearly Examinations... begin on Friday 23rd March and conclude on the last day of term 1, Thursday 5th April. Students need to ensure that they are well aware of the rules governing examinations as outlined in pages 7 and 8 of the HSC 2012 Assessment Handbook. Students should be revising work from Term 4, 2011 as well as the topics currently being studied.

Year 11 formal assessment tasks are well and truly under way in most courses. Students need to be aware of the rules and procedures governing Assessment, as outlined in pages 6 and 7 of the Preliminary 2012 Assessment Handbook.

Good luck to Year 11 Business Services, Construction and Hospitality students who will undertake their first work placement from 19th – 23rd March. It is the responsibility of each student on work placement to ensure that any work missed is caught up. Any issues relating to Assessment tasks need to be addressed with the class teacher and KLA Coordinator in the first instance.

Mr Ginestra
Curriculum

from the careers department

New arrivals to the Careers Corner in the Library. 2013 Course Guides for both UTS and UNSW.

Interested students can look at these IN the Library. (I will photocopy any relevant info. for individual students or, you can go online to the website of the University itself).

All Year 12 students considering study at University should have begun their investigations for courses/subject options/degrees etc. This can be a lengthy but absolutely worthwhile process, there are lots of options – Which Degree? Which University? What subject majors? Cadetships? Scholarships? International exchange? etc., etc. You need to get it right! Remember UAC preferences have to be in by the end of Sept. 2012.

Students interested in study at TAFE in 2013 can contact Gymea TAFE Campus Ph.9710-5000 and arrange to speak to the TAFE Course Counsellor about the many courses offered by Sydney Institute of TAFE or go to www.sit.nsw.edu.au to search subjects and course options. Note, some TAFE courses require an ‘Application’ to be lodged in October 2012 – make sure you know the specific application requirements for your course/s of interest – don’t miss out because you didn’t bother to find out early enough!

Anyone very confused? or not know where to begin? Come and see me, we’ll make a start.

Ms Brown
Careers Adviser
Parents please be aware that we have only limited uniform stock on hand at school for emergencies only.

There is a second hand uniform shop run by a parent, Julie can be contacted on 0466 340 264.

When the students receive their new jumpers & blazers please have them labelled for identification. Thank you.

SMART SCHOOL SECONDS
New Boys Short Sleeve School Shirts will be available from Smart School Seconds from '22nd March 2012.

Please note we have both second hand Boys & Girls Blazers and Jumpers in a variety of sizes ready for the cooler months ahead.

Julie
0466340264
2nd March 2012

YEAR 12 HALF YEARLY Examinations

Dear Parents,

The Year 12 Half Yearly Examinations will commence on Friday 23rd March and conclude on Thursday 5th April.

Students will only be required to attend school for their timetabled examinations. No formal lessons will be held for Year 12 during this time, however, staff will be available to assist students who have concerns or need further assistance.

Students are required to be at the College by 8.20am for morning exams and before 12.20pm for afternoon exams.

Each student has been given an examination timetable and it is their responsibility to read it carefully and ensure they arrive on time to all examinations.

During the exam period, if your son/daughter is absent from an examination could you please contact the school before 8.30am. Any student missing an exam must follow the correct assessment procedures on the first day they return to the College.

It is expected that students will be in full correct school uniform for the examinations. Failure to abide by college expectations for the duration of the exam period will result in students being required to attend school from 9.00am-3.00pm each day.

Yours sincerely

Michelle Morrison
Assistant Principal