Reflection... In celebrating our Year of Grace I share with you a “National Prayer” that we have frequently prayed together as a Catholic school community:

Gracious God, You have blessed this ancient land with many gifts, especially its people. We thank you for the Year of Grace, a time to start afresh with Christ.

You invite us to contemplate the face of Jesus your Son, that we may experience a new wave of Grace, and that the light of Christ may burn more brightly in our lives. Attune our hearts and minds to the presence of your Holy Spirit, that our Church may be transformed, our relationships be healed, and our nation grow in compassion and justice.

With the intercession of St Mary MacKillop who showed us new ways of living the Gospel, we make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us

Year 11 Parent/Teacher Evening... My thanks for your wonderful response to the evening held in week 10 of last term. Even though we experienced a few teething problems with the online booking system, it has been a great success and we look forward to further developing the process. Your son/daughter’s report and subsequent conversation on the evening will have given guidance and direction for their focus in preparation for their final Preliminary Examinations – all students should commence this immediately.

Year 12 Trial HSC Examinations... Our Year 12 students have been working very hard and are currently sitting these examinations. Once again they are to be congratulated on their effort and attitude, and the calm and measured way in which they present for their exams. They are continuing our strong culture of “doing” examinations well, ensuring all students experience the best possible conditions without needless disruptions.

Uniform Warning... While the majority of our students wear their uniform well, some continue to defy our policy and requirements. Consequently, the image of this great College in our broader community suffers – most unfairly. You will recall that at our Information Nights, I constantly caution that this College is prepared to adopt counter-culture positions at times.

Interestingly, our requirements are no more than what is expected in many facets of industry – even “MacDonald’s” demand a dress code and its employees are well aware of the consequences of not meeting these. Having discussed this issue with staff and members of our Parent Advisory Board, I will now “draw a line in the sand”! Any student who continues to infringe will be sent home. Parents will be advised, and, along with your son/daughter, urged to recommit to the policy you agreed to at enrolment.

Drug and Alcohol Seminar – Mr Paul Dillon... One of Australia’s leading authorities on this very relevant social issue will be speaking with all students on Monday 13 August. To support his message, we invite all parents and staff of the College, and our feeder schools, to join us in listening to Mr Dillon’s parent presentation. As an educator of many years experience, I have found Mr Dillon’s presentations have a most significant impact and are rated extremely worthwhile by both students and parents. The evening session commences at 7.00pm sharp, in the College Hall. Please make the effort to come along.

Live Jesus in our hearts . . .

Phil Gane
Principal
Lasallian Youth Gathering 2012... It was a great blessing for four De La Salle Cronulla students and two staff that headed over to Rotorua, New Zealand in the first week of the holidays for the Lasallian Youth Gathering. Taking place in John Paul College, one of our Lasallian schools, facilitated by the Lasallian Youth Ministry team and joined by a variety of guest speakers, the five-day gathering was a hit!

The participants ranged from current Year 11 and 12 students, ex students from Lasallian schools all across Australia and New Zealand, as well as teachers and youth ministers, all of whom were there for the same purpose; to explore what it means to be Lasallian. Participants had the opportunity to listen to various Brothers and Lasallian volunteers talk about their involvement with the Lasallian mission.

One of the highlights of the week was the Service Project day where participants were involved in various acts of service across Rotorua. The projects ranged from childcare facilities to refurbishment of museums, visitations to disability homes, community gardening and interaction with juveniles at a youth justice centre. This common experience of service (one of the pillars of Lasallian spirituality) brought to light the theme of LYG “Keep the faith. Let it show”.

Tayla said she’d been looking forward to the service project since the start of the year and the experience was everything she hoped for!

On the last day of the gathering, students and ex-students from De La Salle Cronulla along with some from St Bede’s College in Melbourne, worked together to provide a powerful reflection challenging participants to find the balance in silence; keeping faith through prayer and letting it show through speaking out in the name of justice.

The week provided opportunities to experience local Maori culture and visit some of the main tourist sites in the area, including the Polynesian spas. However, the highlight was meeting new friends from many different Lasallian schools and sharing in the experience of learning about faith and how we can become part of the wider Lasallian Mission.

Simone McGill
Lasallian Youth Minister

from the re coordinator

Am I really Superhero? This was the theme of the Year 11 Retreat. Last Week 210 students and 21 staff spent two days at Stanwell Tops exploring qualities of superheroes and ways we can make a difference in the world. The staff worked with small groups of students where they were able to develop significant relationships with one another through discussion, sharing and team activities. Simone McGill, our Lasallian Minister was instrumental in her planning and skill in putting together the program. Three other Lasallian Ministers, Ruby Crowe (HSC 2011) and Matthew Manahan, student teacher (HSC 2008) were also part of the retreat team.

Father Andrew Benton celebrated a meaningful liturgy Thursday evening where he challenged the students to acknowledge significant influences in their lives and spoke of the close relationship he has with his grandmother.

The retreat continues to be a significant experience for our students as they are taken out of their comfort zone and challenged on a variety of contemporary issues. I would like to thank everyone for their contribution.

Mrs Cullen
RE Coordinator

from the pdhpe department

“Sydney South produces another champion”... Jordan Jackson who has played footy through the junior ranks at Cronulla Sharks JAFD was recently selected in the Sydney Regional Junior Umpiring Squad “elite program” which has been developed by the AFL to target outstanding junior umpiring talent. Jordan’s debut in the Sydney Under 18’s Division 1 was so successful that he has since gone on to umpire Division 1 and 2 open men’s matches. Jordan was also recently selected to umpire at the Combined High Schools U15 school boys championships at Wollongong as part of the state umpiring academy. A great success from a lot of hard work.
from the debating team

Southern Sydney Catholic Schools Debating Champions… Congratulations to the College Debating Team for their victory in the final of the Southern Sydney Debating Competition. Larissa Grinsell, Kate Berger, Megan Muller and Bailey Neate represented us against Bethany College in a very tight final. Bethany, last year’s Champions were always going to be hard to beat. We had the affirmative case to argue on the topic “Australia’s Future Looks Bleak”. The team made the most of the preparation time coming up with a surprising definition of the topic for their opponents. We argued that Australia had a bright future but looked bleak because of nay saying and negativity in Australian media and politics.

The team’s interest in current affairs and general knowledge came to the fore in arguing the case against a very strong Bethany team line.

The adjudication panel retired and took some nail biting ten minutes to reach the decision we had been hoping for.

The college has been runners up for 5 years in this competition so it was very rewarding to achieve not only a finals victory, but an undefeated clean sweep of the competition.

Thanks to Mr. Bunyan and Mrs. Buic for their support as adjudicators for the juniors during the season and to Mr. Gane for his support on finals night. Also thanks to the parents for their ongoing support and transport of debaters.

Byron Hurst
Debating Coach

from the d&t department

Year 12 Design & Technology… Year 12 students are been very busy working towards the completion of their HSC Design and Technology Major Projects. We have been incredibly impressed with the quality of the students work as they display highly creative and innovative techniques. These projects will be on display in September, after they have been marked by the Board of Studies. Carla Williamson's project recently appeared in the Leader's fashion pages.

Mrs Yvette Kennedy

Attention Year 12 Parents

Please keep in mind that Julie Taylor from Smart Schools Seconds will be offering to buy back your child’s school uniforms. We will advise you of the date before the end of term but it will be after Graduation. If you would like more information please contact Julie on 0466 340 264.
Parents are invited to:

Alcohol and Other Drugs and Young People Seminar with Paul Dillon

At
De La Salle Catholic College, Cronulla
13th August 2012
7 – 8.30pm in the College Hall

Paul Dillon – Session description:

Many parents, like their children, access information on drugs from inappropriate sources such as the media and as a result there is a great deal of mythology around drugs and their use. This presentation will attempt to give accurate, up-to-date information on current trends in drug use in Australia. The area of drugs is one in which many parents do not feel well-equipped, in fact a recent survey suggested that over 50% of Australian parents have never discussed the topic of drugs with their children. This presentation aims to empower parents with some basic information about current trends in alcohol and other drugs as well as provide up-to-date research on best practice parenting in this area.
Compeer is a community based friendship program that matches volunteers in friendships with people who are socially isolated due to mental illness. Volunteers spend four hours each month meeting socially with their Compeer friend.

**Interested in volunteering?**
Compeer is always looking for volunteers to match in friendships. Compeer provides a flexible volunteer opportunity which you can do outside of your regular commitments. It gives you the chance become part of a welcoming community of like-minded people, and make a difference to someone’s life.

If you are friendly, empathetic, and can spare four hours each month for at least one year, email us at compeer@vinnies.org.au We’d love to tell you more about the program.

**Entertainment Books**
To raise funds for Compeer, we are now selling the 2012 | 2013 Entertainment™ Book.
Entertainment™ Books are packed with discount offers for restaurants, cafes, hotels, and attractions. Offers are valid until 1 June 2013.
Sydney Entertainment Books are $65 each. Each book sold contributes $13 towards Compeer.
Order before August 10 and you will receive free postage. To find out more or to place an order go to https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/212958s

**FIDDLER ON THE ROOF**
Artes Christi presents FIDDLER ON THE ROOF! One of the all-time classic musicals returns to Sydney this August in this spectacular new production of Fiddler on the Roof featuring a cast & orchestra of 150+ people. “Spectacular, humorous yet deeply moving—an inspiring show for all the family!”
PERFORMANCES: Friday 3rd August (8pm), Sat 4th August (1pm & 5pm), Friday 10 August (7.30pm), Saturday 11 August (1pm & 7.30pm) GROUP TICKETS from $30 Ph 9351 7940 or book online via www.theword.org.au All profits support young Australians with a disability.