Reflection... A highly regarded De La Salle Brother, Br Bill Firman, writes regularly from South Sudan where he is engaged in supporting the local community as the country seeks to establish itself after many years of civil unrest. Bill is not only a man of extraordinary practicality; he is a great philosopher and teacher. I am privileged to read his newsletters and the last one (attached at the end of this document) spoke to me about the “great rush of life”. As our Year 12 students complete their final weeks of secondary schooling, I pray they allow themselves time to enjoy and appreciate the great journey, mystery, and challenges that lie ahead. Within this, is the time to stop, reflect upon, and pay tribute to the parents, grandparents, teachers, and De La Salle Brothers who have guided them, and will continue to do so, along the way.

Year 12 Graduation and Higher School Certificate Examinations... Once again our Year 12 students conducted themselves with great respect and dignity as they completed their graduation week. We have clearly established a tradition of celebration that acknowledges hard work, commitment, and loyalty to our College, such that there is no behaviour whatsoever that would reflect poorly on our College community. The assembly and the Graduation Mass were wonderful celebrations of our time together; highlighted by an opportunity to reflect and give thanks for our Faith and the many blessings we share. I would particularly like to acknowledge Bishop Terry Brady who joined Father Tom from the St. Aloysius Parish in leading the Mass. Bishop Brady, in his Homily, spoke of the sense of spirit he feels when he visits us, and I am sure our graduating students were moved by his sensitive and deep meaning words.

Over the past few weeks I have been acutely aware of the developing culture of learning and commitment to preparation for the HSC examinations. This is evident by the number of students who have populated our Library this term, most often working in groups, mentoring and tutoring each other, under the watchful eye and guidance of teachers. These students are not just the “high achievers”; many are those who have found their studies over the past two years to be quite challenging.

However, they have shown great perseverance by coming up to the College before and between examinations to work together and gain that extra bit of improvement we have spoken about. Congratulations Year 12 students – let’s keep this up until our Graduation Formal!

Proposed Government Funding Cuts... On the first day back this term Byron Hurst and I met with the local Liberal member for Cronulla, Mr Mark Speakman, to discuss the proposed Liberal Government cuts to funding across the Education sector. Our conversation was calm and balanced, and we were able to express the concerns we have as a systemic Catholic school in the Sydney Archdiocese, and also represent you as fee paying parents. We greatly appreciated Mark’s willingness to listen to this, and also the engaging conversation had around the history, culture, and context of De La Salle Catholic College Cronulla. We concluded our meeting with a “learning walk” around the College, led by our 2013 College Vice Captain, Courtney McCrohon, who represented the students with pride and distinction.

However, the funding cuts remain of very significant concern, and I urge all current and future parents of our Catholic schools to respond to material and actions that assist us to register this with Government.

Phil Gane
Principal
from the assistant principal

Students have started their first term of Year 12 off well. Summer uniform is being worn with pride by most of our students. A firm reminder to the few students who come poorly dressed they will find themselves with a detention.

Feedback to students on their performance in the Preliminary Yearly exams is well underway and reports will be handed out to students at the beginning of Week 5. These next few weeks involve students working hard to:

- review their strengths and weaknesses from the feedback given from the Preliminary Yearly exams and use this information to address these areas for improvement.
- begin their Year 12 studies with a fresh and committed approach, completing all set class tasks, homework to support their learning and regular review of notes and creating their own summary study notes.

Students participating in Work placement during Weeks 6 and 9 associated with the TVET courses run here at school must ensure that they have filled in all associated paperwork prior to commencing their placement and follow all instructions from their teachers as to their particular placement. Whist we know this is a great opportunity and a compulsory part of the course for Year 12 it is important that you remember to inform your other teachers of your absence. This should be done well in advance and the student must catch up any class work missed. If you are going to miss an assessment task you must see Mr Ginestra (Curriculum Coordinator) ASAP to avoid a zero letter.

A timely reminder with our students participating in our driver education program “U Turn The Wheel”: students driving to and from school should ensure they are following the 40km speed zone and parking appropriately as indicated by the street signage. They should take particular care if they are carrying passengers.

Any student has a study lesson Period 1 or Period 5 may start late (period 2) or leave early (end of Period 4) if you have filled in the permission note (obtained from the office) and have your parents/guardians sign it and bring it back to the school office.

Please note that parents/guardians and students are urged to view the College website, http://dlscronulla.catholic.edu.au to become familiar with assessment policies and procedures and importantly the College Calendar for assessment schedules. Family holidays or social occasions should not be planned in the school term time and certainly cannot take place during periods marked for formal assessment or the student will receive a zero mark in line with the Board of Studies NSW requirements.

Mrs Morrison
Assistant Principal

from the re coordinator

We were very fortunate to have another visit from Bishop Terry-Brady on the 11th March. Bishop Brady is very interested in speaking with our students about contemporary social justice issues and the Catholic Church. He also spoke about the importance of prayer in all our lives. On a sad note, Bishop Brady’s mother passed away last week and as a community we extend our sympathy and prayers to Terry and his family.

In response to Bishop Brady’s discussions, students and staff gathered for prayer on Monday morning, with the focus on social justice. I was pleased to see a significant number of students and staff gather together before school. This will continue each Monday at 8.30am.

Mrs Maree Cullen
RE Coordinator

from the lasallian youth minister

On Monday and Thursday of week 3 and week 4 our students have volunteered to tutor students in Years 7, 8 and 9 at De La Salle Caringbah after school in their library. I commend these students for giving up their time. They are a wonderful role model for the younger boys and provide great support as they prepare for their exams.

Simone McGill

from the careers advisor

Students interested in pursuing medicine and other health courses need to sit the UMAT on 31 July 2013. MedEntry is a government accredited Registered Training Organisation specialising in UMAT preparation. MedEntry offers discounts of about 30% for groups, and numerous scholarships. For more information please visit www.MedEntry.edu.au

from the maths department

Parents
The Compulsory Maths Survey Forms are due back to the office by next Tuesday 30/10/12.
Your assistance with this survey is appreciated.

Mrs Morrison
Assistant Principal
from the school leaders

From the girl captains....We recently attended the Young Women’s Leadership Seminar held at NSW Parliament House. The seminar aimed to discuss concepts and definitions of leadership and the issues that affect women in leadership roles. Our day began with a keynote presentation from Director of the National 100% Renewable Campaign, Lindsay Soutar. Lindsay gave us an insight into how we can turn our dreams and ideas into tangible careers and futures and also left us with her thoughtful definition of leadership, “taking responsibility for others to achieve purpose in the face of uncertainty”. This inspirational presentation was followed by another presentation run by VibeWire, an innovative non-profit youth organisation “providing youth with a voice”.

Four guest speakers, Lauren Anderson, Hannah Donally, Alex Ford, and Gina May Diana, shared with us their journeys from finishing high school, to where they are today and all emphasised the idea that success comes from “passion, prosperity and purpose”. The day ended with a lively discussion between participants and female members of parliament, the Honourable MP Carmel Tebutt and MP Rosa Sage. This discussion brought up important issues about discrimination against women in politics and whether there is harsher standards for women in leadership roles. Overall this seminar was a great chance to meet fellow young female leaders from high schools across Sydney as well as an opportunity to meet a range of role models who highlighted the importance of women in leadership roles inspiring us to consider our own leadership roles in our communities.

Amber Bowles (School Captain) and Courtney McCrohon (Vice Captain)

From the boy captains.... During Week 1 of Term 4, 10 students from De La Salle visited Toyota Head Office in Taren Point. The first day was spent learning strategies from two accountants from the Mindshop Excellence Program that we could use in our school studies as well as to solve a real-life issue that Toyota is having. We were posed an issue of how Toyota can improve its Used Car Sales through dealerships.

As a team we worked on the premise of Now, Where, How; What is Toyota’s current position in the Used Car Market? Where do they need to be? How can they get there? On the final day we presented our solutions to the Toyota Executives in a 45 Minute Presentation. The Executives were extremely impressed with our work and will look further into our strategies to be introduced in the near future. Our team consisted of Adriana Maras, Bailey Neate, David McCarthy, Elizabeth Halyard, Evana Liakopoulos, Isabella Palisi, Ryan Macquart, Ross Hickman, Taylor Young and William McKenna.

Bailey Neate (School Captain) and David McCarthy (Vice Captain)

from the year 12 coordinator

With the Preliminary Courses now well and truly behind us, your sons/daughters are now easing themselves into the vigour and rigour of their final year of schooling. Now is the time to develop good study practice at home.

We would advise you that Year 12 students need to study for at least three hours per night. If this seems unrealistic, develop good study habits this term and start with perhaps two hours per night. Please feel free to contact me if you’d like help designing a study timetable.

It’s only Week 3, and already there’s been a lot happening. Senior schooling can be very demanding, so it’s all about time-management and balancing activities. Here’s a ‘snapshot’ of what’s happened so far:

- Ten of our students worked for a week at Toyota, Taren Point where they participated in the ‘Mind Shop Excellence Programme’, with a view to finding resolution to a real Toyota business problem. They gave an outstanding presentation to Toyota Executives, who said they’ll take their suggestions on board. Our two Boy Captains, Bailey Neate and David McCarthy, were part of this team.

- Amber Bowles and Courtney McCrohon, our Girl Captains, spent last Tuesday in Parliament House where they attended a Seminar on ‘Young Women’s Leadership’. You can find both their reports below.

- Bishop Brady visited us again and met with our Leaders. What followed was a challenging but thought provoking hour.

- Last Wednesday Mrs Fraser led our Pastoral Team on DESCa, and from all accounts it was an excellent session. ‘D’ stands for Dignity, and I encourage your son or daughter to explain to you what the other initials represent.

- Mrs Kennedy has worked with a number of our students, who cooked meals for the Brothers. There will be more opportunities for others to get involved as well.

- Last Friday, our Geographers studied the Wetlands at Kurnell. It was a great educational day, and now they can start working on their Assessment Task.

Finally, should you have any queries/concerns please feel free to contact either Mrs Kennedy or myself.

Mr Peter Geaney
Year 12 Co-ordinator
from the it department

Macbook buy back scheme... The CEO & DLS Cronulla are giving the Year 12 HSC students an opportunity to “Buy Back” their Macbooks. This is the 4 year old Macbook with the 2 part mouse, power supply & case. The Macbooks will be reimaged to the original Apple operating system (Leopard 10.5) and will have none of the De La Salle licensed software installed. There is no Apple warranty on the Macbooks. De La Salle Cronulla and the CEO are not responsible for any future damage/breakage of the Macbook.

The cost of the Macbooks will be $50.00 which is an administration charge. Macbooks will be available from 17th December until 11am Thursday 20th December 2012.

from student service

- On page 11 of the Student Diary there is a section for parents/guardian to sign to give us permission to administer Medication (Herron)
- We have a few items in lost property e.g. reading glasses, keys etc - to collect please see Student Services
- All Students need to have their Library Cards on them at all times during school hours - This card is used for Students signing in late or leaving early - it is also used as an Official I.D. Card for Exams.
- Could all Jumpers and Blazers please be marked with the Student's Names - this will help when it comes in to lost property.
- If a Student is absent from School please phone Student Services (8522 1500).

Thank you

Rita Arnold
Admin Officer

REMINDER
ALL HSC STUDENTS

Students are invited to a “brunch” at the College on Thursday 20th December at 10am—11.00am to share our ATAR

Year 12 Graduation Formal
Dear Parent/Students
The big night is fast approaching!
Just a reminder regarding dietary requirements—if you haven’t already done so, could you please email me your dietary requirements by Monday 29th October. Looking forward to enjoying a great night together.
josie.raftery@syd.catholic.edu.au

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Dear Parent/Students
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josie.raftery@syd.catholic.edu.au

LET’S CELEBRATE LEAVING SCHOOL

Julie will again be at the school to purchase all items of your school uniforms that you no longer require. This includes; Blazers, shirts, trousers, blouses, skirts, jumpers, scarves, bags, ties and girls socks. As Julie will be revitalising them, there is no need for them to be spick and span.

WHERE: Under the cover outside the Hospitality Room
WHEN: Mon 19th November 2012
TIME: 8.30am – 11am
MOB: 0466340264

I S S U E  3 3

P A G E  4
109. Lucky to Live Long

The Sisters in our Riimenze community are very caring for the needy. They work closely with the parish priest, Fr Morris, in caring for the sick, the elderly and the neglected. This week, Sr Joana organized a gathering of the elderly citizens for mass, a meal and distribution of the practical gifts of some soap, sugar and a basic. I was co-opted to drive some of the parish down narrow bush trails to the tuksul (home) of one woman where all the people gathered.

Looking at these frail, weary, weather-beaten people, I found myself thinking, ‘You are among the lucky ones who survived 39 years of war (1985 to 1972 and 1983 to 2005) and the recurring fear of attacks by the LRA (Lords Resistance Army). How many nights have you spent in the bush in quiet fear of the enemy, snakes and other dangers?’ I have seen two very active snakes in the past five days – from the safety of a four-wheel drive! These people live surrounded by bush. No wonder they keep the ground around their tuksuls swept and clean. Yes, they are the lucky ones. They have survived when the average life expectancy in South Sudan was only 43 and 183 children per thousand, in this part of the country, die before the age of five. But few of us in our comfortable existence would think of them as lucky! Some look decidedly hungry and relished the good food Sr Joana provided.

They are lucky now to receive the gift of care from those who have more – us. The theory of good social work is that we should empower persons to take their place as full citizens in their society; we should not patronize them with hand-outs. Yet this theory can be blind to the human misery of the old, the lonely, the frail and forgotten. On this day they were remembered and clearly noticed. In his homily, Fr Morris reflected on the feelings the old once had of importance in their community: people came to them for advice and wisdom. But now they experience the loneliness of seeming useless, a burden, a consumer rather than a contributor.

How very important it is to value our senior citizens. We all hope to become one – some day; but not too soon we hope! I have often quoted Maurice Chevalier when asked how does it feel to be eighty: ‘Pretty good’, he said, ‘when you consider the alternatives’. Some of these people scattered in isolated tuksuls do not meet each other very often. On this occasion they obviously rejoiced to be with their fellow travellers on the journey of life. Those wizened people exuded the quiet strength and strong faith of men and women of integrity, well advanced along the journey to God. It was also good to witness the caring attitude of the younger people helping Sr Joana and Sr Rosa.

Again my thoughts turn to another favourite quote from Le Petit Prince by Saint Exupéry: ‘It is the time you have invested in your rose that makes your rose so important.’ In practical terms there was a lot of time wasted for this gathering but for once some withered roses felt very important. Pastoral work is like that. When in charge of BoysTown in Australia, which has been most unfairly subjected to one-sided, negative publicity recently in Australia, I came to understand a key difference between teachers and social workers, between service providers and pastoral workers. If you focus on service delivery you feel you have to be efficient and on time. If a teacher, the bell rings and one must get to class. I used to joke, however, with the BoysTown social workers that they were always late for meetings. They were the listeners, not the deliverers. They always had time for people. I learned to respect that, I suspect they were more important to the boys than were their teachers.

I could have used this time with the old people for other things, important to me in getting my work done. I feel good when I am up-to-date and efficient. But it is also salutary to be prepared to waste time: the dad who watches his son play football, the mother who does the scoring, the businessman who has time for a family outing. Little wonder some plants turn into prickles if adequate time & care is not given to them. If we want to create a bed of roses, we must have time for the God and people that matter. The elderly remind of us our destiny. They are always important in our journey to God.

- Br Bill
Sutherland Cluster Schools

Our Lady of Fatima Caringbah
St Joseph's Como/Oyster Bay
St Aloysius' Cronulla
St John Bosco Engadine
St Catherine Laboure Gyme
Holy Family Menai
Our Lady Star of the Sea Miranda
St Patrick's Sutherland
St Francis De Sales' Woolooware

De La Salle College Caringbah
De La Salle College Cronulla
Our Lady of Mercy College Burrawang
St John Bosco College Engadine
St Patricks College Sutherland
Aquinas College Menai

Earlier this year, the Catholic Education Foundation was launched to honour our commitment that no Catholic child should be denied a Catholic education due to financial hardship. Bursaries will be funded to assist families in all Sydney systemic Catholic schools. To be successful, the Foundation relies on sponsorships and donations and is therefore very grateful to the families within our school community who have made tax deductible donations via the Foundation website [www.ceosyd.catholic.edu.au/foundation](http://www.ceosyd.catholic.edu.au/foundation).

Our school community also recognises the Foundation's sponsors, particularly Lowes/Beare and Ley, Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club, Club Central Hurstville and Club Central Menai. Their significant financial commitment is a great help to families in our school and in other Catholic schools in Sydney.

Club Central Menai is funding a bursary in all Catholic schools in the Sutherland Shire including our school. We are sincerely grateful for this support.