Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

Some years ago my parents retired and moved to the mid-north coast. It is a beautiful area and provides a very relaxed lifestyle – although it can seem remote and it is certainly removed from the remainder of the family. Last weekend my family paid a ‘surprise’ visit to my parents. Well, it was a surprise to my mother, we needed dad to be complicit to ensure we didn’t drive all that way to find an empty house.

While there is always some difficulty coordinating the movements of any family and there needed to be some last minute cancellations for some of us, it was really no great sacrifice on our part. I was quite amazed then, when on Sunday morning at breakfast my mother announced that this visit would become one of her treasured memories. It was not the first time I had turned up unexpectedly, but this was the first time I was accompanied by the rest of my family.

The importance of family was a lesson I learned early in life, although it was not something that was written or even spoken about – it was a lived experience, everyday. My childhood experiences of family have shaped my adult life. Although it was a coincidence that Sunday was the feast of Corpus Christi, my mother thought it wonderful that we were able to attend mass together and be a family in Eucharist.

Our weekend was very enjoyable and was characterized by just being together and chatting. It reminded me that the simple things in life are the most important – faith and family. God bless, Brad.
Assistant Principal’s Report

To meet Nicole Kidman, Harrison Ford and Jack Sparrow, one needed not to go to Hollywood, California on Saturday night. They were all there at the Hills Bowling Club for the Annual Gilroy Parent Social. We mingled with directors, actors and many celebrities. Even Superman dropped in, or should I say, flew in. The highly successful night was the culmination of the work of the Gilroy Parent Council, complete with Oscars for various academy award winners. Our heartfelt thanks from the many parents and staff who thoroughly enjoyed the night even though our feet were sore from dancing.

On a less positive note, during the week, Castle Hill Police Youth Liaison officers were asked to speak to all students on assembly again to remind them of the possible offences that might apply to students who use mobile phones to video or record criminal acts or acts of indecency. This also applies to the use of the internet. Both Senior Constables highlighted to students that the taking of inappropriate photos or sending them to others is an offence under the NSW Crimes Act. We will continue to emphasise to students that their mobile phones should be turned off between homeroom and period 5 and should not be seen. Again, I would ask all parents not to text or ring their son or daughter in school hours but to contact the office.

A special diary date for the St. Paul National E-conference in Gilroy Library on the 30 June. It would be best to arrive about 9.30am prior to the live broadcast. All parents and parishioners are welcome, just leave your name and phone number at the front office to let us know you are coming. Our Year 11, 2 unit Studies of Religion students will be joining us as well as some of our RE staff.

Best wishes and keep warm, Maureen Moore.

Library News

Premier’s Reading Challenge:

As we approach the halfway mark, it is pleasing to note that some of our students are on track to complete the reading requirements well ahead of time.

However, it is important for parents to continue to encourage students to strive to beat the 1 September deadline. The Library Staff are only too willing to help students to read books of a length that will assist them in that goal.

I know some students have had difficulty logging into the Premier’s website, so please come and see me and we can work on it together. Recording their “books read” is a great incentive to reach their goal.

HSC Tip:

Talking to a former HSC marker recently, he said that one tip is to have a FAST PEN.

By explanation, not all pens are the same, so it stands to reason if students have a set of comfortable pens to use, particularly in essay-writing subjects, they may have an advantage.

Mr N Donovan, Teacher-Librarian.

Wisdom in Short Bites

◆ A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.
◆ Exercise daily. Walk with the Lord!
◆ Forbidden fruits create many jams.
◆ Give God what’s right, not what’s left!
◆ God doesn’t call the qualified; He qualifies the called.
Update on Human Swine Influenza

The Deputy Director-General, Population Health and Chief Health Officer – Dr Kerry Chant has announced:

The GREATER METROPOLITAN MELBOURNE has been added to the list of affected areas (Mexico, Canada, the United States, Japan and Panama). This list will be continually updated.

All Schools are required to take steps to exclude staff and students for a period of seven days after returning from ‘an area of high prevalence’.

If staff and students remain well and do not show any symptoms after seven days they may return to school as the symptoms of the virus are thought to develop between 24 hours and 7 days after contact.

So far we have not had any staff or students with this flu. If you have any questions about contact with the flu please direct them to your local doctor or Emergency department. In the unlikely event that it happens please notify the College immediately. Students are also advised not to visit anyone who has been placed in quarantine.

For more information contact:

- General information about human swine influenza;
- Australian Government human Swine influenza hotline; 18002007
- NSW Health human swine influenza website:

Enrolments Year 7 2010

We are currently interviewing our prospective Year 7’s and their families. Once all the interviews have been held, letters of offer will be posted out by the end of this Term. Our enrolments places are limited and if by chance a Gilroy family has forgotten to enrol, please contact the College immediately or you risk being placed on a waiting list for 2010.

Year 12 Retreat

The Year 12 Retreat was held from 1-5 June, where students were split up to stay at either Bowral or Mittagong in the Southern Highlands.

The Retreat came to us at a great time.

All of us left the worries of our school lives at home and went to Retreat for the three days without thinking about the HSC!

The main theme of the Retreat was treasures. This was highlighted in a scripture read to us from Matthew 6:21, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”. The Retreat not only gave everyone a chance to think about their future, but also reflect on our past.

The inspiring selection of songs and videos left us with the attitude to never give up and to always treasure the things that are most meaningful.

Overall, the Retreat was a great experience for us, and for the rest of the grade. Bonding with the teachers and connecting with our peers are the memories that we will never be forgotten and will be cherished forever.

By Emma de Robillard and Gabby Habib.
**Student Update**

**ATTENTION ALL YEAR 12 STUDENTS**

The school blazer must be worn over the jersey coming to and from the College and to homeroom.

If students do not comply with these directions then the wearing of the jersey will be banned at school.

Mr Page - Year 12 Coordinator.
Mrs Moore - Assistant Principal.

**Careers**

APPRENTICESHIPS & TRAINEESHIPS EXPO

EMPLOYERS ARE RECRUITING NOW FOR 2009

CASTLE HILL TAFE CAMPUS
Tuesday 23 June, 4-8pm

Cnr Showground and Green Road
CASTLE HILL

PARENTS ARE WELCOME
For further details contact
Hills Schools Industry Partnership
Telephone: 9639-7999 or
Website: www.HillsSIP.com.au

**Intermediate Rugby League Photos**

Log into the above site to view further information on the following Careers and Advice:

- NSW HSC Online.
- ADF Scholarships 2010.
- Energy Australia Apprenticeships.
- UNSW Co-Op Scholarships.
- UMAT Late Applications
- Engineering @ UNSW.
- USYD Flexible Entry.
- UWS Medicine.
- Joint Medicine Program.
- Pre Trade Courses at Mt Druitt.
- Bonus Points at Newcastle.
- UTS Info Days.

*Mr David Credaro, Careers Advisor.*

Student Log in Instructions:

**Career Central**

Please note: Parents/Guardians are welcome to log in too.

When accessing the site you will need to enter the website: [http://www.careercentral.edu.au](http://www.careercentral.edu.au)

- Select “site login” at the top of the screen
- Enter your user name - your personal email address
- Enter your password – Gilroy
- Select “Student” under “Choose Type”
- You are now at the home page!
- Save in your favourites.
Year 7 Student Update

Year 7 Weekly report

We are heading towards the end of Term 2 which means we have a lot to look forward to. At the top of the list are holidays but when we return we will start new subjects and new activities.

There is no better way to find out what these subjects have to offer than ask some students who are doing them. Half the form has been studying Art and the other half has been doing Music. This is the same case with Geography and History, and the many Design Technology units such as: graphics, cooking, sewing and woodwork.

Year 7 classes have gone to great lengths in their DT subjects; Our class, 106, has done a great job in making nachos, burrito wraps and crispy potatoes as shown below:

We asked other Year 7s what they have enjoyed, and what they are looking forward to.

"Geography has been so much fun but it can get challenging at times" says Rebecca. "Well I love History, and I am very excited about Geography" says Patrick. "Yes History is fun, and I am enjoying it" says Bradley.

Kristyn said "I am doing Art and I love creating new works, I can’t wait until we start Music. I also love the prac lessons and it is so much fun". Emilia said "I am doing Music and I enjoy it".

The first two terms of high school have been great and it does sound like we still have a lot to look forward to.

By Stefanie Messina and Jack Wunch.
NOTICE TO PARENTS

re: Whooping Cough

A major outbreak of whooping cough continues to affect the Sydney area.

In order to prevent further cases of whooping cough Sydney West Public Health Unit advises the following:

If your child has any of the symptoms of whooping cough, such as a dry or persistent cough, which may be especially bad at night, please see your doctor and take this notice with you. If the cough has been present less than 4 weeks a swab test can be performed. If longer than 4 weeks a blood test can be performed.

If your child has whooping cough, your doctor will arrange a course of antibiotic treatment. Antibiotics given early in the illness are effective in stopping the cough and in preventing spread to other people. If your doctor diagnoses whooping cough please advise the school and keep your child at home until they have taken at least 5 days of antibiotics.

Whooping cough is very dangerous for small infants – please ensure that you and your family do not visit babies if you have a cough.

Vaccination is the best protection against whooping cough. The vaccine is given at 2, 4 and 6 months and 4 years. A free booster vaccine will be offered to all Year 10 students at school this year – please take advantage of this opportunity.

Information on whooping cough is available at http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/factsheets/infectious/pertussis.html or from the Public Health Unit on 9840 3603 (Parramatta) or 4734 2022 (Penrith).
Are you learning to drive?
Then allow us to teach you…
We are a Gilroy Family-owned business based in the Hills District. Your instructor, Peter, is a former police officer with over 25 years experience. Peter holds a Certificate IV in Driving Instruction and a Certificate IV in Training & Assessment.

We have single lessons, multi lesson packages and gift certificates available.
www.allthingsdriving.com.au
or
Belinda: 0409 049 424

Learn to Line Dance

New Classes for Beginners
Monday Nights 6.30pm-7.30pm
Harvey Lowe Pavilion, Doran Drive
(off Carrington Rd) Castle Hill (follow showground signs)

Also
Blacktown Bowling Club, Lismore Street
Thursday nights 7pm

Suitable for all ages, men, women and children
Keep fit, meet new friends, no need for a partner
Line dancing is fun and easy!
No upfront fees; pay as you come.
Ring Linda to book into classes
Ph: 0419 285 389

St. Dominic’s College Golden Jubilee

Boys Education Forum
Raising Young Men with Celia Lashlie

How do you raise boys to men in a world where trouble beckons at every turn? How do you make sure they learn the ‘right’ lessons, stay out of danger, find a path to follow? How do you ensure they’ll be OK?

All parents from the community are welcome to join us.

When: 1 July 2009, 7:30pm.
Where: St. Dominic’s College Hall.
Cost: Gold coin per person to cover costs.

Please contact the College to book a seat:
Phone: 4731 1933 extension 110
Email: mburton@stdominics.nsw.edu.au

Parking is available in the College grounds – entry in Copeland Avenue, then in the streets around the College.