From the Principal

Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

Welcome back to the 2010 school year. I am sure that this year will be another positive year for the Gilroy community. A special welcome to all of our new families, I hope that your time at Gilroy will be enjoyable and that we can exceed your expectations of us.

Last Wednesday Father Mick from St Michael’s Parish, Baulkham Hills celebrated Eucharist with the staff. The reading of the day was of the parable of the sower and Father Mick drew the analogy between our work as teachers and that of the sower. The sower did not have all perfectly prepared fields to work with and nor do we as teachers, but is our job to get the best we can from all of the students in our care.

Father Mick returned the next day to say the opening Mass for our new Year 7 students. In his homily he spoke to the students about new beginnings and the opportunities that are before them as they commence with us at Gilroy.

I recently addressed our Year 12 students and talked to them about new beginnings as well, and of expectation – our expectations of them as students and their own expectations of themselves. While I would be the first to acknowledge that the HSC is not the be all and end all of education, it is a very important milestone in their lives. It is for that reason that they must have high academic expectations for themselves.

Certainly they will be very successful if they use last year’s cohort as role models. Of our 2009 Year 12 students seventeen scored ATARs in excess of 90. Congratulations to Amy Cahill, Chris Chidiac, Kiel D’Arcy, Gerard Dagher, Luke Dempsey, Chloe Horne, Steven Kreamer, Arlia Langdon, Monica Lara, Aaron Leung, Kenson Ly, Richard Mammoliti, Joey Mui, Anthony Nguyen, Christian Raso, Damien Stone and Melissa Wightman. A further five students achieved scores above 89. Congratulations to Chris Bateup, Emma De Robillard, Rosemarie Lebnan, Zoe Ross and Sebastian Wolf. Joey Mui was dux of the group with an ATAR of 98.65.
From the Principal continued:

While it is important to acknowledge individual success I would also like to recognise the whole year group. 2009 was one of the most successful years we have had in terms of HSC results. Of the 38 subjects that were studied, eleven scored their best result since the new HSC format commenced in 2001 and a further 7 achieved their second best result. 29 subjects improved their average from the previous year and 25 subjects were above state average. Given that Gilroy is a comprehensive, not a selective high school, these results are very exciting. Congratulations to all of our HSC students and their teachers.

In one of the papers over the break the Shadow Minister for Education Mr Piccoli accused the Government of focusing only on the top performers in the HSC, and said that they had seriously neglected students who needed help in learning basic reading, writing and numeracy. In part this is true. All schools hope to get strong results at the top because that will ensure a positive profile in the media. The students who work hard all year and don’t get the Band 6 results are just as important. Every individual student is important at Gilroy and we do our best to ensure that they can do their best. An analysis of our results reveals that our 164 students contested a total of 966 examinations! Of all those exams our students were awarded only 19 Band 1 or 2 results. Mr Piccoli doesn’t need to worry about us only looking after the top performers.

Following such strong results across the board it will be a challenge to replicate this level of success but I am sure that our new cohort of students and their teachers will rise to the challenge as we all begin the new school year.

New Staff 2010:

We welcome a number of new faces to the Gilroy community this year and some familiar faces that are returning to us. The following people are joining us in a permanent capacity: Mr Adrian Hunt (TAS), Mr Peter Monaghan (Science) and Ms Rommeny Stock (Visual Art). Ms Emma Fenning (Maths), Mrs Melissa McDonough (Maths) and Ms Genevieve Wensley (Drama/English) will be with us in a full-time temporary capacity for the year. Ms Kathleen Farrell (Science) has accepted a job-share position, Ms Nicole Usher (Visual Art) will be with us three days a fortnight and Mr George Maliwat will be here for Term One.

Finally, Mrs Karen Bertinshaw has taken 12 months study leave and Ms Rose Garofano will be our Leader of Learning and Pedagogy in 2010. I am sure that everyone will make them feel most welcome and that in no time they will be a part of the Gilroy family.

myschool.edu.au:

It would have been difficult to avoid the media and political circus surrounding the launching of the mySchool website last week. While the government extols the virtues of the site, some education unions have presented an opposite perspective and some tabloid media outlets have, of course, sensationalised it and looked for the negative angle – the truth is probably a mixture of all three views. If you are interested in hearing about the website and its relevance to Gilroy, I will be discussing this and our HSC results and our goals for the school year at the next Parent Forum. It will be held in the College Library on Wednesday, February 24 at 7:30pm. I look forward to seeing you there.

Wine and Cheese/Meet and Greet night:

The annual welcome night is on February 12 in the G Block quad. Traditionally this has been a welcome night for new families, but we also extend invitations to ‘old’ families who would like to come and enjoy a good social night with the College Council and many of our staff. The College Council will have more specific details out soon. Again, I look forward to seeing you (old and new) there. God bless, Brad.

Assistant Principal’s Report

Welcome back for the 2010 school year. It's always wonderful to return and see the renewed vigour and enthusiasm of staff and the smiling, excited faces of students. I sometimes wonder considering the humidity whether it would be better to have our Summer break in February but start the school year in January after New Years Day.

The school day this year begins at 8:35am with Homeroom. If a student is late, that is, after 8:40am, then they must report to the School Office at Student Services. They then report to their Year Coordinator. On three days of the week, Pastoral classes are held immediately at the end of homeroom. Year 7 and 8 are with their year group in colour Houses; Years 9 to 12 are arranged vertically in House groups. More information will be forthcoming on this.
Extreme care is needed in Marie Street both at the beginning and end of the school day. The pedestrian crossing near the school bus bay is for students to use entering and leaving the College. Before and after school it is important that parents do not enter the school grounds to pick up their son/daughter. Please arrange for them to meet you in Freeman Avenue, Kerrs Road or Parsonage Road. The back car park near the oval is for senior students to park, again it is not a drop-off zone. The school day ends at 3.10pm and staff are on supervision in the bus bay until 3.45pm.

The calendar on our intranet system and the newsletter are vital in communicating what is happening here at school. Gilroy is such a busy school, the year packed with events. The newsletter will be given out on Thursday in your child's Pastoral class, so if your son or daughter does not give it to you ask them for it as it will be in their bag.

I am looking forward to meeting parents both old and new at the wine and cheese evening and at the Parent Forums held each term.

Just some thoughts for the week:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Happy moments, praise God.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Difficult moments, seek God.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiet moments, worship God.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Painful moments, trust God.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every moment, thank God!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Best wishes for a great year working together, Maureen Moore.

We hold two social events each year. The first one is our “Welcome Back Drinks and Nibbles” Evening on February 12 in the senior quad. This night is a great way to ease back into the new school year chatting with parents from all years over a drink. Check the newsletter for more details. All parents are welcome.

We also have a $60 per family per year fundraising levy on your school fees This replaces all the chocolate drives etc, and the money helps in purchasing equipment/resources that the students/school may need. It is through this levy and the support from our parents that we have been able to air condition all the classrooms; which I am sure the children and staff appreciate.

There have been a couple of changes on the council since last year. We said goodbye to Pam Bell and Wendy Stone who served on council for a number of years; we appreciated their efforts and wish them well for the future. We now also say good bye to Fr John who has retired from the position of Parish Priest Representative. We thank him for his contribution to our school community and we welcome Fr Mick to this position.

Our Committee for 2010 is listed below. Should you need to contact us please visit the school web page – click on Council and there is a ‘contact us’ button for your use.

Executive Committee:
* Chairperson - Kathy Ortiz
* Deputy Chair - Natasha Bryce
* Secretary - Nicky Owen
* Treasurer - Marie-Claire Miller Argue
* Staff Rep - Marty Brannan
* Principal - Brad Campbell
* Deputy Principal - Maureen Moore
* Parish Priest- Father Mick (St Michael’s)

General Committee – Michael Johnson, Loretta Wilson, Gerard Pearson, Jacquie Anchique and Mark Street.

Hoping to see you all at the Drinks and Nibbles night.

Kathy Ortiz, Chairperson.
The facts about funding to Catholic schools

Dear families,

The Australian Education Union (AEU) recently published a report claiming that non-government schools, including Catholic schools, receive the majority share of federal school funding. Such claims are not new and continually misrepresent the facts about government funding of schools. The reality is that state governments are the primary source of recurrent funding for schools and provide approximately 93 percent of public school costs but only about 17 percent of non-government schools costs. Accordingly, the federal government provides top up assistance of approximately 7 percent to public schools and about 53 percent to non-government schools resulting in the need for non-government schools to charge school fees to address the gap.*

In real terms, Catholic schools on average receive $7,685 per student in government funding (both state and federal) per year. This is more than 30 percent less than the $11,874 per student funding allocated to public schools by state and federal governments.**

The collection of school fees by non-government schools is commonly used as an argument against government funding.

In Catholic systemic schools, school fees are kept as low as possible to ensure Catholic education is affordable for our families, and as such, only partly contribute to the funding gap.

Tuition fees for 2010 range from $1,110 per year for primary schooling to $1986 per year for upper secondary schooling. Catholic school families contribute to the building levy to assist with capital works and major refurbishment projects. School-based fees may also be charged for additional resources and school supplies.

Catholic schools offer substantial discounts for siblings attending Catholic schools. A 25 percent discount is offered for the second child attending; a 50 percent discount for the third child attending; and no fees are payable for the fourth or subsequent children attending.

Catholic schools rely heavily on government funding. Without the state and federal government’s financial support, Catholic schools would simply not exist.

We are grateful for the support of both the Australian and New South Wales governments for their continuing support of Catholic schools, which is vital if we are to continue to serve the church’s mission to provide quality Catholic education to our families, now and in the future.

Greg Whitby
Executive Director of Schools
Diocese of Parramatta


** Source: Productivity Commission figures (2009).

Careers
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

- 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.

Mr David Credaro,
Careers Advisor.

Travel Passes

Student Travel Passes will be issued to students via Homeroom during week three.
Update from the Leader of Welfare

Anaphylaxis Students:

Gilroy Catholic College has a responsibility to cater for many differences that children present in regard to academic, emotional, social, physical and health issues.

Presently at Gilroy we have a number of students with life threatening allergies to various forms of food and insect stings. This is a serious matter which can be fatal. At Gilroy Catholic College we are implementing various management strategies to cater for these children. We appeal to all parents to assist us in caring for these students by considering the type of foods your son/daughter brings to school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food Type</th>
<th>Examples</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peanuts</td>
<td>Hazelnuts, almonds, cashews, pecans, walnuts, macadamia - nuts of any kind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree nuts</td>
<td>Paricularly chocolate biscuits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peanut butter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutella</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biscuits containing or topped with nuts</td>
<td>Particularly chocolate biscuits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cakes or slices containing or topped with nuts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snack packs containing nuts</td>
<td>Dried fruit + nut mixes, snack-a-bouts, Dunk-a-roos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chocolate containing nuts</td>
<td>Pienics, Snickers, Mars Bars (almond), Nut Breaks, Ferrero Rocher, Fruit and Nut, praline based chocolates – Guylian, Marble Blocks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chocolate lollies contain nuts</td>
<td>Peanut M&amp;Ms</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our aim is to minimise the amount of peanut and nut products brought into the school. These foods are extremely dangerous to the children with allergies and can cause severe anaphylaxis shock within a few minutes.

Common foods that trigger an allergic reaction are listed above and we ask you to attempt to refrain from sending them to school.

Thank you for helping us to provide a safe environment for all our students.

Mrs Jennifer Wakeling.

Year 7 Report

First Day at Gilroy Catholic College:

On 28 January Year 7 students starting high school at Gilroy Catholic College all woke up early feeling nervous and excited about starting their first day of high school. We all got dressed in our gigantic uniforms, and made our way out the door, only to find our mothers in tears with the camera.
When we arrived at Gilroy, we met in the main quad and saw new faces and new teachers. We were eager to make new friends! Mr Campbell, Mrs Moore and Mr Morin welcomed us into the Gilroy community and made sure that we were able to travel around without getting lost, and finding ourselves in a panic.

Having Mr Morin as our Year Coordinator makes us feel famous, and he makes sure that we never forget his birthday!

We then moved into the hall and split into our homerooms. We met our new teachers who have become our second mum (or so they say). At recess we tried hard to make some friends, but there were way more people than at primary school! However we look forward to making new friendships and getting to know our classmates. After recess, we met all nine of our class teachers who were all different in their own way.

We then had a liturgy celebrated by Father Mick, who tried to make us feel welcome, although we still felt like we were on another planet. We had a sausage sizzle for lunch, cooked by the award winning chefs/captains of Gilroy. We then had our first assembly with Mr Morin that felt like it went for days.

When we all went home, we felt very tired, confused, and stressed, but we all looked forward to coming back tomorrow.

By Isabella Manieri and Sophie Mack.
The Lighthouse Program is a mentoring project that is coordinated by Parramatta CEO and has been operating since 2001. During this time it has matched over 350 Year 9 and 10 students with volunteer mentors.

The volunteer mentor hosts the student in the workplace for one day per week (May to September excluding school holidays). The mentor is both a personal and professional role model for the student. All mentors undergo free TAFE mentor training and receive a TAFE Certificate of Attainment “mentoring in the Community”.

A Workplace Trainer supports both the student and the mentor during their placement, Gilroy has been privileged to be involved with Lighthouse and will continue in 2010. With the extension of the program to all schools in the Parramatta diocese, there is a shortage of mentors and on behalf of the Lighthouse personnel I am appealing to the Gilroy community to become involved in this worthwhile project.

You may not be mentoring a Gilroy student, but you will be providing a fantastic opportunity to a young person from our area.

Mentors can be from any industry, an individual or a large company e.g. Bunnings; All trade areas; Clerical and Administration, Hairdressing & Beauty.

Please consider this call for help so that the program can continue to supply a valuable service to students in our Catholic communities.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor or finding out more information, please contact:

- Maree Armstrong - Ley, Program Coordinator 0417 060 132
- Vanessa McDougall, Workplace Trainer 0407 246 955

Mrs Jennifer Wakeling, Leader of Welfare.
**ALL THINGS DRIVING**

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

**MALTESE PASSION MUSICAL/PLAY**
"I Am The Way, The Truth and the Life".

To be performed at The Good Shepherd Church Hall, 136 Hyatts Road, Plumpton, on Sunday 21st March, 2010.

Entertainment from 3:00pm with pastizzi, biscuits, Maltese delicacies. The Show will commence at 4:30pm.

Adults - $12.00
Children - $5.00

Presented for the 4th time in 30 years. Jesus comes as an ordinary person, his life full of trials and tribulations, loving us, teaching and reaching out. Yet he still hangs on the cross to save us.

Ph: Eddie 9633 2250, Joe 4733 8643, Nancy 9674 5885.

**New School Web Address**

New regulatory requirements for the edu.au domain mean that all Catholic school URL addresses must now only contain four domain levels, e.g schoolname.catholic.edu.au. This means that as of January 1, 2010 our website address will change to:

http://www.gilroy.catholic.edu.au

Please delete the old address and bookmark the new one. There is no facility to redirect you if you accidently type in the old address.

**AWE**

we don't just teach, we mentor
Private Tutoring

*Feeling like you have no motivation to study?
*Trying to understand what’s happening in class?
*Wondering what your true potential could be?

How about starting completely afresh this year?
How about starting on the right path now?
How about starting AWE private tutoring?

Apart from being School Cert and HSC academic experts, we cater for all needs, including those who need a supporting mentor to guide them, those who just want to catch up, along with those who wish to accelerate their learning.

“AWE seriously helped me to *pawn* (do well) during the HSC… and it’s not just that, it actually gave me the motivation to actually sit down, take out my books, concentrate and get the job done. It’s pretty AWE-some!”
Joey Mui (Gilroy Catholic College Dux 09)

Please phone: Andrew Wong (Gilroy Catholic College Dux 08).

on 0432229109, or email to Awong@mqassoc.org

**Rockets**

**Registration for Soccer 2010**
The Mighty Rockets….Castle Hill RSL Soccer Club Invite ALL Students at your School/College to join our Club and play the World’s Top Football Game.

Registration Days at the following location:
Castle Hill RSL Club in the “Sovereign Room” Saturday 6 February 2010 10:30am – 4pm.

Further enquiries please contact Mike Molyneux on 0412 778 815, Sal Maresca 0421 135 498.
Visit the website: www.rockets.net.au
DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Mr. Campbell
& Gilroy Catholic College Council

Would like to invite you to a
‘Parents’ Welcome’

Drinks & Nibbles Evening
to be held in the
Senior Quadrangle (G Block)
on
Friday 12th February 2010
7:30pm - 10:00pm

It is on again!! - Gilroy Catholic College Council warmly invites all parents to our annual ‘Beginning of the Year Drinks and Nibbles’ evening.

This evening is a wonderful opportunity for parents both new and old to meet and mingle in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

Wine, beer, soft drink and a variety of finger foods will be provided.

Please return this ticket order to School Office for catering purposes.

(Name) No Adults attending: __________

Child’s Name ________________________________ Class __________________

E-mail address ________________________________________________

Contact No.: w) ________________________________ h) ________________________________

Receipt of RSVP will be e-mailed.

RSVP – 5th February 2010 – to school office.