DIARY DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welcoming Evening Mass for new Gilroy Students</td>
<td>9 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Carnival</td>
<td>10 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drinks &amp; Nibbles Evening at Gilroy</td>
<td>12 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 10 Assessment Information Evening</td>
<td>16 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blazer Fittings Year 7 and New Students</td>
<td>16 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ash Wednesday</td>
<td>17 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent Forum in the Library</td>
<td>7:30pm 24 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7 Vaccinations HPV, Chickenpox</td>
<td>25 February</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WHAT'S INSIDE

From the Assistant Principal

Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

On Friday, a full school assembly will be held in the Brother Damian Harvey Hall, to celebrate the academic achievements of Year 12, 2009. It will be an opportunity for all students to hear what it was like for Year 12 in their 13th year of schooling; their struggles to achieve high ATAR ranks, their stories and advice, their hopes and dreams for the future.

Hopefully, throughout their years at Gilroy, we have at times inspired, stirred them to think and question. We hope that we have helped them develop their spirituality. We hope that we have helped them to act in ways that are loving, that are respectful, that allow them to sleep at night and to be a welcome part of a family and of a community. I would like to share a brief story with you.

The old African chief was dying. His face was lined with life lived, his eyes filled with peace and patient waiting. Summoning his three sons, he spoke of his final wish.

"When I die, one of you must succeed me as the leader of our tribe. I want each one of you to climb our holy mountain and bring back something of beauty. The one whose gift is the most outstanding will succeed me."

His sons departed, following the path deep into the forest, travelling with the height of tall trees, and finally climbing the mountain, old and stone-solid. After some days, they returned from their travels. The first brought his father a flower from the summit, rare, beautiful and delicate, with a preciousness that called for great care. The second son brought a stone, colourful, smooth and round, polished by rain and sandy winds. The third son's hand was empty.

He said: "Father, I have brought nothing back to show you. As I stood at the peak of our holy mountain, I saw on the other side, through the cleft and out into the sunlight, a beautiful land filled with green pastures and a crystal lake. I breathed the mist and caught in my eye the glisten of the coming sun. And I had a vision of where our tribe could go for a better life. I was so overwhelmed by what I saw and by what I was thinking that I returned with nothing."

And the father replied:

"You shall be our tribe's new leader, for you have brought back the most precious gift of all - the gift of a better vision for a better future."

And so we hope and pray that our 2009 Year 12 students are people of integrity and have been given the gift of a better vision for a better future; that they are forever restless, living their faith in the Light of Christ in an active and exciting way that makes the world a better place. Best wishes for a fulfilling week, Maureen Moore.
**Leader of Welfare Update**

I would like to offer a very genuine welcome to all families to the academic year of 2010. In particular I wish to welcome all new students, staff and families to the College and assure them that they are joining a very good school community. I am confident 2010 will be a great year for the College and I look forward to sharing it with you and journeying through the year with its trials and tribulations, its successes and joys.

The first full school assembly started with news of the achievements of our Class of 2009 Year 12. Their hard work and commitment to doing well was evident in the number of students who achieved ATAR results above 90. Overall our students can be very proud of their results and I congratulate them. I would also like to recognise the College staff who have supported the students during the last six years of schooling. Our expectations are high and the support of family is crucial in encouraging the students to strive for and reach the fullness of their potential. Our 2009 students will be recognised at a Celebration of Excellence Assembly. In true Australian spirit, they have demonstrated outstanding qualities of friendship, intellect, strength and leadership.

Thank you to parents and students for the way in which the students have returned to school with the appropriate uniform and appearance. It is our belief that confidence and self-discipline comes about by wearing the College uniform entirely and proudly.

To that end, we have some reasonable expectations that must be complied with for the students to enjoy the privileges of the College. We will be constantly checking uniform during the first couple of weeks to remind all students to be neatly and correctly attired. College uniform requirements are outlined in the student diary.

_Mrs Jennifer Wakeling._

**Update from the Leader of Learning & Pedagogy**

Studies prove that parents make the difference in improving children’s reading literacy!

One of the most important things a parent can do to develop a child’s literacy is to establish a daily reading session of between 15-30 mins (depending on the age of the child).

This daily practice helps develop **fluency and expression**. The regular session will also enable the child to develop and use a range of reading strategies, to monitor their own progress and to create independence in their reading.

For some **younger** students a **chart that plots their progress** (and perhaps offers some sort of reward after so many weeks) may help to provide extra motivation during the difficult learning period, but make sure the student gains the positive impression that reading can be enjoyable and rewarding.

For the **older** students, use the reading material as a chance to discuss the students ideas or beliefs or even start a debate to see how much they have understood and can apply to the world they live in.

In addition, provide opportunities for children to carry out reading in **real life** smaller doses.

They can:

- Read a section from the newspaper such as reviews on new cars or bikes
- Read out the ingredients and instructions on jars and packets
- Read out a recipe
- Read out the reviews of the nightly TV movie
- Read the star signs from magazines
- Read interviews from magazines.

_Ms Rose Garofano._

**Thoughts & Sympathy**

Prayers are requested for the following students and their families on the recent passing of a loved one:

* Bradie Price (Year 8) Grandmother.
* Kirstyn Basile (Year 8) Grandmother.
Library News

With 2010 sharpening the school's focus on Literacy, the Library’s role is twofold: to encourage and extend students’ reading (in all formats), and to assist in the delivery of Information Literacy, the life skill of the 21st century individual!

To assist parents and students, I am available to help with selection of materials, both Non-Fiction & Fiction and to ensure your child has access to suitable formats for their needs. The Library is able to purchase some materials in CD format and via iPod. (Some parents have decided to purchase directly from such suppliers, so if you need this information, just phone the school and leave me a message.) Ph: 8853-8200.

Premier’s Reading Challenge 2010:

This is one practical way to support Literacy development and the Challenge will begin soon. Please note that only students in Years 7, 8 and 9 are eligible to enter. AND YOU CAN START READING NOW...so why not get together with some friends and pick up a book!


Behaviour:

There is an expectation that students' behaviour in the Library reflects the qualities that the school promotes, e.g. KINDNESS, JUSTICE, and so on.

While it is early days, the vast majority of students have shown they respect the Library facilities, its staff and the need to act responsibly. Thank you all for such a positive start to the year.

Neil Donovan, Teacher-Librarian.

Lighthouse Program... Seeking Mentors

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.
Year 8 Report

Welcome all new staff, students and Year 7 to our school and a brand new year.

To all Year 7 students, High School isn’t as daunting as it looks. Yes a lot of people say “hey look at all the cute Year 7’s” but you just have to get used to it. A key for learning at school is to work hard, get your work done and do all your homework. If you do all that the teachers say, you will enjoy every day at school!!

The annual school Swimming Carnival is coming up on Wednesday 10 February. Just have fun and have a go at as many races as you can!

Congratulations to Mathew Hourigan, who got the role lead in Oliver with the Hills Musical Society. Let’s all give him some support and go and watch him!!!! We wish you luck and hope you do well!!!!

Congratulations to Abbey Marfo and Neil Jordan for making it into Zone for Athletics!

This year, Year 8 has all started learning new languages, either Japanese or French. We have many new things to look forward to ...so let’s give them our best!

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.

Check out the below opportunities on the website for further details.

- Police Career Day – Goulburn 21 February
- Airline Pilot Career Workshops
- TAFE NSW Enrolments – enrolment periods vary – contact your local campus.
- UAC Final Round Offers
- UWS Academic Pathway Programs
- Notre Dame Applications

Mr David Credaro, Careers Advisor.
**Student Update**

**Uniform Shop:**
The new Blazer fit out will be held on Tuesday 16 February. A $100.00 deposit will be required at fitting.

The Uniform Shop will be **closed for general sales** on 16 February. For further information please contact the uniform shop on: 8853 8206. *Mrs Jenny Owens.*

**English Department:**
Could all students who have not returned ANY English text and have it at home please return these books **as soon as possible.** We will have an Amnesty for the next two weeks, however then students will be fined. Thank you for your cooperation, *Ms Chris Cigana.*

**Allergies Update:**
Could parents/guardians notify the School Office (as soon as possible) of any food allergies your child may experience. This will assist, in particular, when Food Technology classes are in progress. Thank you for your assistance.

**Second Hand Book Sale:**
Please be advised second hand books can be purchased on Tuesdays during the first half of lunch.

Could parents please collect your book money from the school office no later than **Tuesday 23 February.** If money is not collected by this date the money will be credited to your school fees. Thank you. *Mrs Criss-Benton, Business Manager.*

---

**TAFE Western Sydney Institute**

**Free Course**
Are you operating a home-based business, or would you like to? This **Free** course can help you.

When: One morning a week (12noon - 3pm) for nine weeks.
Starting Monday 1 March
Where: The Hill College, Baulkham Hills Campus
146-160 Old Northern Road
Baulkham Hills

Further information contact Jody Seagott on P: 9865 1180 or Annmaree Bernie on P: 9865 1149.
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.

ST MICHAELS KNIGHTS SOCCER CLUB
2010 SEASON REGISTRATION & GRADING

Experience the fun & excitement of the world game in the same year the Australian “Socceroos” will take on all comers in the 2010 Soccer World Cup in South Africa

2010 Season Late Registrations each Wednesday night in February from 7:30pm to 8:30pm at Bella Vista Oval (starting from 10th February)

2010 Grading at Bella Vista Oval (for ages 8 – 17) on Sunday 14th February 2010

Boys, Girls, Mums, Dads & Grandparents are all welcome (U6 – All Age, O35’s, O45’s) come & Join your local family club.
For further details, please visit our website – www.stmichaelssoccer.com

Northern District Hockey Association

Registration Day
Saturday 13 February 12pm – 4pm
Pennant Hills Park, Britannia Street, Pennant Hills

For information call:
Adrian Wilson 0419 299 808
Robert Nicoll 0438 119 729
www.ndhockey.com.au