Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

Last weekend was Valentine’s Day, a day where the commercial side of life has once again taken hold. I’m sure the sales of chocolates, flowers, cards and other gifts helped lift the retail sector from the post-Christmas doldrums. Like Christmas, the feast of St Valentine has been subverted by commercialism, although the basic theme of love remains the same. St Valentine was a priest of Rome in the third century. At the time the Emperor banned all marriage in an attempt to increase the numbers in military service. St Valentine was so moved by the plight of young lovers in pain that he began conducting weddings in secret. For these acts of charity he was beheaded and we celebrate his Feast day on February 14.

All parents know that there is no love without suffering and St Valentine certainly suffered for his love. As we begin our journey through the Lenten period towards Easter, we too will suffer as we make our Lenten sacrifices. Fasting and the traditional ‘giving up’ of some of our luxuries are very small inconveniences for us when compared to the life of St Valentine or the suffering of Jesus. Perhaps this year, rather than giving something up we could focus on love – a little more love in the world would have to make it a better place.

Last week we had three significant events in the life of the College. The first was our Welcome Mass for our Year 7 students and their families. Due to the size of the student population and the location of the school we are not afforded the opportunity to celebrate the Eucharist as frequently as I would like. This makes these occasions all the more special. The mass was held at St Michael’s Parish, Baulkham Hills and Father Mick spoke about the journey that our Year 7 students have commenced. The Gilroy community wishes them well and I’m sure they will enjoy our love and support.

We also had our first formal school assembly for the year. Traditionally this assembly is held to honour our Higher School Certificate high achievers. The ATAR scores are still being collected and at last count we had 19 students who achieved a score above 90! At the assembly Joey Mui, our dux and Amy Cahill spoke about their journey to success. Joining them on stage were Luke Dempsey, Chloe Horne, Steven Kramer, Aaron Leung, Emily McCann and Damien Stone. Unfortunately, not all of our high achievers could be with us on the day, but they were acknowledged in a previous newsletter.
From the Principal continued:

The third event was the ‘Drinks and Nibbles’ night on Friday evening. This is another welcome evening, this time for the parents. Each year as planning gets under way the question is asked, “What is our wet weather plan?” Each year I reply, “It won’t rain”. From 2007 – 2009 I was right and each year the rain cleared on the night and we had beautiful weather. Not so this year! It poured! Despite the weather, the brave souls that ventured out had a wonderful night and I thank Kathy Ortiz and the councilors for working so hard in adverse conditions to make the night such a success.

Term One is always such a busy time as we begin over again. Let us all pause for a moment to reflect on St Valentine’s message of love and hopefully we will take it with us into Lent.

God bless, Brad.

**Leader of Welfare Update**

Over the next couple of weeks during Pastoral your son/daughter will be shown a short clip from the movie “310 to Yuma”. The clip will focus on the conversation between rancher Daniel Evans and the notorious outlaw Ben Wade (Russell Crowe). For those who haven’t seen the movie, Daniel Evans was trying to pay off a debt so his family could continue to live on their ranch and accepted a $200 offer to escort Ben Wade to the train stations that would take him to Yuma for prosecution.

Ben Wade in the clip attempted to pay off Daniel Evans by offering him five times the amount to let him go free. Evans does the right thing because he didn’t want to compromise his values of honesty and integrity. In the face of adversity, Rancher Evans refused to compromise his values and the promise he made in front of his son.

The challenge that will be presented to the students is what type of person are they becoming? Are they a student who will own up and tell the truth when they’ve made a mistake and to accept the consequences or are they the one who will not tell the truth and lose their personal integrity when confronted with the stark reality of their actions. Are they a student who bullies and targets good students trying to do the right thing? Are they the student who when they realise their mate/friend is being bullied they don’t report this to the Year Coordinator because they don’t want to be involved?

Our aim at Gilroy Catholic College is to nurture good students. The challenge of schooling and of parenthood is to challenge boys and girls when they lose some of their personal integrity through their actions and to allow them the opportunity to regain this and to grow as a person.

The support I know we receive from our parents when implementing those actions is what makes Gilroy Catholic College a great school.

Thank you for your support and trust.

*Mrs Jennifer Wakeling.*

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

**Literacy is a Partnership:**

As the new school year begins, one of the most important factors in a student’s ability to be successful is the belief and practice in a Literacy Partnership.

Every student needs essential tools to learn. These tools include the ability to read and comprehend, the ability to critically analyse and respond, and the ability to reflect and make appropriate judgements. A ‘partnership’ acknowledges and accepts the responsibility to be equal teachers in the process of acquiring the essential tools for learning. Gilroy teachers are already committed in providing all students with the tools for effective learning, and this year, will also see the continuation and introduction of many Literacy Initiatives, which will allow students access to these essential tools. However, a Literacy Partnership also calls for parents to be vigilant with their child’s learning. In this newsletter, there will be regular ‘tips’ to enable parents to become an active part of their child’s learning, as well as active members of the Literacy Partnership.

Together… we will make a difference.
Update from the Leader of Learning & Pedagogy continued:

**Literacy tip ~ Parent Tips:**

**Retaining information:**

The average person can only cope with memorizing up to four items of information at any one time.

When helping your child to revise or study, ask them to learn only four in a list. Then ask them to learn the next four and revise the previous four, and so on.

Use the idea of **chunking** information into manageable amounts in their study by suggesting that they break up lists of 8 – 12 items by trying to create categories within the list.

For example:

Break up a list of the effects of the Gold Rushes into the categories of economic and political effects.

**2009 Year 12 Top Achievers Advice!**

Last Friday saw 10 of the 2009 Top Achievers from Gilroy return to speak at the school assembly.

After all the dust from the HSC exams has settled, the students who are about to start a very new journey of Tertiary study had some valuable advice to share with our current students.

Here is an overview of their Top 10 Tips for HSC Success:

* **Keep a healthy balance** – ensure you have an outlet from your studies such as playing a sport or playing an instrument or a hobby.

* **Have faith** – believe that your hard work, commitment and diligence will pay off.

* **Be competitive** – use your peers results to motivate your own study and class engagement.

* **Find a SPACE to study** – eliminate as many distractions as possible.

* **Time Management** – use a study timetable to help you meet all the requirements of your subjects AND your other commitments such as work, social activities and sport

* **Be consistent with your study** – most of the students averaged 3-4 hours a night of study that included homework, assessments and revision

* **Tap into your teachers** – ask questions, seek clarification, use their support

* **Review Top Responses** – see what received the best marks and reflect/ compare your own work

* **Choose subjects you enjoy** – this makes studying far more enjoyable and you’ll remember more when you enjoy the learning

* **All year approach** – don’t wait til the end of the year to cram as it will only increase your stress and your School based Assessments count for 50% of your HSC.

*Ms Rose Garofano.*

**Gilroy Catholic College Council**

**Chairperson’s Report:**

Last Tuesday we welcomed the new Year 7 students and parents to the Gilroy family with a mass held at St Michael's and Friday night saw us welcome all families to the new school year with our annual "Drinks and Nibbles" evening. Although the weather wasn't kind to us (the first time it has rained in a number of years) the mood was still jovial.

Thanks must go to Nicky Owen and Jacquie Anchique for all the preparation work that they did for the night. To the other members of council and their partners for all their help in serving drinks and preparing the food. A special thanks to the leaders who helped serve the food and the musicians who entertained us - Chris Zecchin, Luke Collins, Laura Feeney, Kim Van Gend, David Scott, Daniel Ojurovic, Jack Sierra, Matt Fuda, Lok Ruggari, Chris Lee, Carmen Azzopardi and Peter Rugg.
Our next event will be the Parent Forum on Wednesday 24 February at 7:30pm in the school Library, Mr Brad Campbell will be our guest speaker. We look forward to seeing you there.

A date for your diary is June 26 for our next social function - more details to follow.

Thank you, Kathy Ortiz Chairperson.

'Parents' Welcome'
Drinks and Nibbles Evening:

Despite the rain on Friday night a large number of parents, the College Council, and a wonderful turnout of staff spent a relaxed social evening together in the Senior Quad.

Thanks to all those who braved the inclement weather and joined us. A special note of thanks goes to the students who serenaded us with their wonderful music, and the school leaders who served all "the Nibbles". They did a fantastic job! Looking forward to seeing everyone again at our social night in June.

Thank you to all the helpers. Mrs Nicky Owen.

Yr 7 Report

This year we have started a new journey at Gilroy Catholic College. It has been a huge step for us to move on from Primary to High school. There have been many differences and many changes between them and it is a lot to remember.

On Tuesday afternoon, the 9 February, we had a Year 7 Mass at St. Michael’s Church with Fr. Mick to welcome us to this new adventure. When we came, we were seated and certain children were happy to volunteer for special jobs in the Holy Mass. One representative from each pastoral group were handed a candle to place on the altar and these were given by the school leaders. At the end of Mass we received special coins that were engraved with a prayer and picture.

The greatest part of all was when we had the school swimming Carnival! It was held on the 10th February at Waves pool at Baulkham Hills. We were all sitting in our colour houses, Yellow, Red, Blue and Green. We all enjoyed swimming in the pool due to the hot weather and for the fun and excitement of racing. Everyone participated and won plenty of points and ribbons. After everyone’s huge efforts, Green had won the day by 12 points but all Gilroy students had a great day and a memory to cherish.

Grades from 7–10 decided and chose what Activity they would like to do every fortnight. On Friday afternoon, the 5th of February, we all split up for our afternoon activities for the first time! Some of the activities were swimming, ice-skating, putt putt and indoor rock-climbing. There were also students who did activities in school, we all had a fantastic time at our different activities. We were able to decide which way we were to go home. Everyone was tired but had an awesome time.

When we first came to Gilroy we were all very shy and found it difficult to make new friends but we are starting to adjust to high school life. We are starting to develop our friendship groups. Everybody had already begun to make new friends without even knowing them! All the students helped each other to create a friendly atmosphere. We hope that none of our peers are feeling left out and have joined a friendship group, now we are all joyously into something together.

So far, at high school we have attended classes of all subjects such as Maths, English and Integrated Learning, just to name a few. We have also been accepted into the Gilroy Catholic College and we love our school life.

We know these days will stay with us forever...

By: Michelle Park and Rachel Calleia.

Please be advised that the 2009 Year Book is in the final stage before going to print. Watch this space for further details.
Year 8 Report

Part 1: Interview with a New Student, 2010:

Interviewer: Max Croucher
Interviewee: Taylah Bridge

Max: What is it like being a new student to Gilroy?
Taylah: It’s great; everyone has been really nice and has made me feel welcome.
Max: Are your teachers nice or mean?
Taylah: They are all really nice and they make me feel special.
Max: How was your first day?
Taylah: It was great, heaps of people were really welcoming and wanted to know if I wanted to be their friend.
Max: How was your first swimming carnival?
Taylah: Great, I went in a couple of events and had so much fun doing it.
Max: How is Gilroy different from Mt St Benedict?
Taylah: Well first of all it is different by the way that this school is co-ed, that Mt Saint Benedict has lockers that you can fit bags in and that there are 5 periods for Gilroy students and 6 periods for Mount Saint Benedict students.
Max: Thank you for talking to me today!
Taylah: No, thank you for having me!

Part 2: Swimming Carnival:

On Wednesday 10 February, Gilroy held their yearly swimming carnival at the Waves Swimming centre. A number of records were broken by members of our own form, Year 8. One of these students was Ryan Roche.

Congratulations to Ryan.

Part 3: World’s Greatest Shave:

The World’s Greatest Shave is coming up on the 11 March, 2010, so Isaac Gorman is going to shave his hair completely.

He has raised over $500 already for people with leukaemia! So, if you would like to colour your hair donate a gold coin to Miss Dalli or the people around the school with tins and badges.

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.

- UMAT 2010
- Nursing Expos
- Working in SPORT
- Interested in Radio?
- Sydney Science Forum
- Explore Science with the CSIRO!
- Australia’s Biggest Education Expo!
- What Next?

Job Vacancy

Legal Firm in Dural is seeking an Office Junior.

The successful candidate will be encouraged to complete a Certificate 111 in Business Legal Administration.

Knowledge of word and excel is an advantage.

Further details contact:
info@andersonboemi.com.au

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.*

**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.*

**Good Luck!**
To Brendan Cole, Year 8 who will be participating in the Australian Schools Cycling Cup from Tuesday 23 March – Thursday 25 March. Events held in Shepparton, Victoria.

Three events:
Tuesday – 3.2kms (Hill Climb), Wednesday – 8kms (Time Trial), Thursday – 23kms (Road Race).

We wish you the very best of luck Brendan and congratulations on your achievements so far.

**Out and About:**
My Powerhouse Museum visit in the Christmas holidays, I visited the Powerhouse Museum, which was my teacher’s idea, to view and examine the works of the HSC Design and Technology band 6 projects. I went there to get ideas, and to see the high level of work that is needed to achieve my designated goal. I arrived there with my parents and brother Jesse in tow, with an enthusiastic attitude to see and take in everything.

The projects I saw were nothing short of amazing. They are projects that are really creative and ingenious. Projects from clothing to whale- calf-feeders are on display. One amazing creation that impressed me is called the ‘Scribemat’ and the design was genius and may make a lot of money for its creator if advertised and sold properly.

Another thing that impressed me was a really light kayak weighing only seven kilos, that after an hour or two of conversion can turn into a tent. After a couple of hours of absorbing and recording as much information as I could, we went home. However, it was an inspirational visit and I know I definitely have a hard time ahead of me, if I am to design my own HSC band six project. But with my teachers and parents support, I’ll give it a try! It’s really worth a visit to the Powerhouse Museum as there is so much to see.

*You can spend hours there and many exhibits are interactive.*
*Loren Druzinec, Year 11.*

**The World's Greatest Shave:**
*The Leukaemia Foundation*

Once again Gilroy is supporting the Leukaemia Foundation's World's Greatest Shave. The act of shaving or colouring hair is symbolic of the hair loss that Leukaemia sufferers go through when undergoing treatment. Last year at Gilroy, students donated loose change and had their hair sprayed in the quad to show support, the loose change and donations from staff amounted to over $400. The funds raised help the Leukaemia Foundation to provide practical care and support to patients and families living with leukaemias, lymphomas, myeloma and related blood disorders.

Students and families can help by making a gold coin donation direct to Miss Dalli, or Blaine O’Brien and James Joyce of Year 11 and Issac Gorman of Year 8. And on March 11, you can show your support further by having your hair sprayed with temporary colour in the quad at recess and lunch.

**NOTE:** James, Blaine and Issac have all registered with the Leukaemia Foundation World’s Greatest Shave, and have sought permission from Mrs Wakeling, Year Coordinators and their parents. Colouring and shaving your head, is not part of the school uniform policy; contributing and participating in charity collections is admirable when done the right way. *Miss Monique Dalli.*
**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

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**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

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**EPPING RSL**

GOLDEN KANGAROOS

come join our band

We cater for all levels of players and ability,
We play all types of music Rock to Classical.

Call Annette 9489 2758
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Join before 28 February and receive 1 month’s membership FREE!!!
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**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 fresh this year?
How about starting on the right path now?
How about starting AWE private tutoring?

Apart from being local and providing high quality and absolutely affordable tuition, as 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 pass (de 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 Mai (Gilroy Catholic College Dux 09)

We offer the following subjects: Maths, All levels, English, All levels, Economics, Chemistry, Physics, Biology and History.

Please phone Andrew Wong, Gelroy Catholic College Dux 05, on 9659279108, or email to Andrew@mpassoc.org

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**Play AFL in a Fun & Friendly Environment.**

We cater for juniors aged from 5-16 years of age.

We play on Sundays in the Sydney Harbour competition from April - August, with breaks for the school holidays. Our home ground is in Crestwood.

* Fees range from $50 to $150.
* Registration February 21 at Bunnings Norwest 8am-4pm or visit our website: www.baulko.org.au

For further details please call Kerry Mann on 0403 278 838 or Greg Nance on 0431 288 980.