Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

Last week Ash Wednesday liturgical celebrations saw the beginning of the church’s Liturgical season of Lent. The ashes used in the ceremony were burnt from the palms left over from Palm Sunday, a day when we remember the welcome that Jesus was given by the crowds as he entered Jerusalem. How quickly their opinions changed when less than a week later they were calling for his crucifixion.

Recently we remembered those that died in the devastating fires of ‘Black Saturday’ in Victoria a year ago. I remember many days over the subsequent weeks glued to the TV seeing images of brave firefighters fighting and struggling against horrendous odds and the devastating loss of life and homes. What I also saw week after week was the strength of the human spirit and the wonderful example of how communities and the whole of Australia reached out to each other.

In my editorial this week, I would like to present to you another view of fire. This is a view that sees fire as being life-giving. The ashes that were placed on our foreheads in the sign of the cross have come from fire. Fire can be powerful and strong. The Holy Spirit came to the disciples at Pentecost in tongues of fire. This gave them the strength to go out into the world and continue the work that Jesus had started. In Australia, there are many native plants that depend on fire to survive. One such flower is the Waratah. In a bushfire, the fire, a natural force of nature, burns the plant and allows the seed pods to open and germinate, thus allowing the Waratah to begin a new cycle in its creation.

And so too, Lent is the beginning of our cycle of renewal. A time when we reflect on our relationship with God and what we are doing in our lives. We are called to prepare ourselves by getting back to basics. It is so easy to be distracted and caught up with material things in our world, and circumstances in which we place the emphasis on ourselves. To truly follow the teachings of Christ, we need to refocus and see ourselves as being part of a community, the church, school and family and friends.
Think about the less fortunate that do not have some of those things that make our lives so comfortable. During Lent we are asked to live simply and reach out to others.

Focusing outside of one self can take many forms. It could be looking out for a friend, doing something for someone that takes time you could have used for yourself, making sure that you remember Christ is present in your life.

My challenge for the school community and myself is to spend the remaining 35 days of Lent renewing the person one would want to be, reaching out to others and making a real difference in our community. Starting on Ash Wednesday, I asked everyone, students and teachers, during this time of Lent to support the Caritas Australia Project Compassion Campaign. It’s amazing what a difference even a few dollars can make. For example, $15 could supply blankets for a maternity ward in P.N.G, $25 could supply literacy or numeracy materials for young Indigenous students in Western Australia.

Be like the Waratah, allow these ashes to bring the goodness within each of you to life. Be open and let the cycle begin.

God Bless, Roisin Robb.

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

**Literacy**

**Spelling**:

Many parents express concern about their son’s/daughter’s inability to spell well. Spelling often causes stress between parents and children. Avoid the angst! Try to remain positive!

- Avoid pointing out mistakes AS the student writes. This is demoralising and it discourages the student from ‘having a go’, especially at new words. Students will tend to stick to the words they know.
- It is better to fix up the spelling mistakes DURING the proof reading phase of the writing.
- Encourage students to identify their own misspelled words.
- Set small achievable targets. Concentrate on a few misspelled words rather than every one. This is important where there is a lot of wrong spelling.
- Try not to mislead students by ignoring misspelled words. Say something like, “Let’s look at three of the words spelled incorrectly.” (There may be 10).
- Spelling is only PART of the writing process NOT writing in itself.
- Spend a small amount of time on spelling and ensure plenty of success.
- Look for the words that are correct – acknowledge these.
- Recognise improvement and effort.

**Strategy:**

Students who become good spellers and users of language are often interested in studying words. Any word games that you can play with your children are invaluable for developing an interest in, and fascination with, words. There are many excellent word games, which have been around for a long time eg Scrabble, Upwords, Jitters, Boggle, etc.

Students of most ages enjoy being given a word and asked to find all the smaller words in the word. Another quick and easy game is to start with a four letter word like ‘joke’ and see how many words can be made by changing one letter each time eg poke, pole, mole, mile, file, etc. This game can be played in the car and encourages students to SEE the words in their minds.

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**Thoughts & Sympathy**

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

- Sarah Atkins (Year 8) Grandmother.
- Joshua Kneller (Year 8) Grandmother.
**CAPA Department**

**Do you have a '35mm SLR FILM Camera' collecting dust at your place?**

The Art Department have several film cameras that need to be retired.

Our Year 9 Photographic and Digital Media Students still use these cameras in the Black and White, Wet, component of their course.

Recently, Mr Phillips kindly donated his perfectly good SLR Film Camera to the College as he simply doesn't use it anymore.

Do you have a treasured film camera that still works and you can't bear to throw out?

The photography teachers will gladly put your camera back to work if you'd like to donate it to us.

Please send your camera to the office, with your name and attention the package to Kristy Scott, CAPA Coordinator.

All donations gratefully received.

Many Thanks,

*Mrs Kristy Scott.*

**TAS Department Request**

Liz Rudman of Year 12 is building a recycled project for her Year 12 Design & Technology Project.

Liz’s idea is based around finding another use for scrap timber. She requires any type of timber that you may have- NOT TREATED, in any size.

Liz is aiming to make a table out of the recycled materials- so there is NO LIMIT to what you can provide.

If you wish to donate something- please call Miss Dalli via the front office.

**Library News**

One of the most popular authors in the Library is Derek Landy and his "Skulduggery Pleasant" series.

Derek is an Englishman and will be making a rare visit to Australia in March. If students care to meet him, he will be appearing at THE CHILDRENS BOOKSHOP, 6 Hannah St, Beecroft in the upstairs auditorium on Wednesday, 24th March. Phone 9481-8811 to book in. It's free.

Also, for adults, ANITA HEISS will be appearing at the same Bookshop on Tuesday March 9th at 7.30pm. Once described as Australia's answer to Whoopi Goldberg, it should be an interesting evening. FREE, BUT BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL. Phone 9481-8811.

**Booksparks Reading Promotion:**

**Term 1, 2010**

*Students ENTER NOW and earn the chance to win some cool prizes (that will come in handy during the school holidays)!*

**How do I enter?**

Borrow any book (fiction or non-fiction) between now and week 9. Complete a mini-review of your book and go into the draw to win some great prizes.

Reviews should be no more than 150 words in length and must include both the book title and the author’s name (hand-written or typed reviews will be accepted).

**Things to think about when writing your review:**

* What is the book about? (2-3 sentences max.)
* Who are the main characters and what happens to them?
* What did you think about the ending?
* Who is book written for? Why?
* What did you learn by reading this book?
* Would you recommend the book to your friends? Why?

*Mr Donovan, Teacher-Librarian.*
**Year 7 Report**

Its Week Four of being in Year 7 and we feel we have started to settle into our new school and have been learning a lot from our new teachers and really different subjects.

All of our teachers have been very supportive and we all are really enjoying the various subjects we are learning. In Science we are learning how to use a Bunsen Burner and in Design and Technology we’re learning how to cook banana muffins which is a lot of fun.

Last year we farewelled a lot of our friends. This year we have started to make new friends and we enjoy spending time with them. We have learnt a lot about bullying, consequences for not following the school rules and ensuring we treat each other with respect and dignity. At the moment in subjects such as Religious Education and PDHPE, we have been discussing and completing activities looking at issues of ‘Belonging’. It is so important to try as many new activities as possible and challenge ourselves the best we can. We all enjoy belonging to a group, whether it be friends, a sports team or the public speaking team.

In Integrated Learning we have been learning how to use the Mac’s and for our assignment we need to make an iMovie about our life. In History, we are learning how to investigate crime scenes with Mrs Jarick and so far it has been a lot of fun learning about The Pyjama Girl Mystery.

Every second week Year 7-10 on Fridays have been going to many activities like ice skating, Wave Pool, Monster Park and more. We have fun with our friends and enjoy spending time with them.

On our journey here at Gilroy Catholic College we hope to make the best of our opportunities, challenge ourselves and most importantly have FUN.

By Evette Michael and Gabriella Piperata.

**From the Sports Desk**

**Indoor Cricket:**

The Castle Hill Indoor Cricket Centre has informed us that the cost of indoor cricket games will increase. Students who play indoor cricket for Gilroy after school will need to pay $7 per player (a team must pay $56 for the game). The cost was incorrect on some permission notes. *Mr James Comito.*

**NSW Under 14's Junior All Stars :**

On 18th, 19th and 20th January we competed in the All Stars New South Wales Basketball Metropolitan Challenge. We competed against two Canberra teams and another NSW team. All of the NSW teams got to the grand-final and the girls Blue team won while the boys’ Blue team was defeated. We went to three trials at Bankstown and Hills to get in to this team, and only 20 lucky people could make it. We were lucky enough to be two of those 20 people and experience something we have wanted to do our whole life!

Next Tuesday and Wednesday we will be competing in the Gilroy Senior Opens basketball at Fred Caterson Reserve. We are willing to try our hardest for the team and hopefully win the tournament.

We are looking forward to the many challenges ahead of us at Gilroy Catholic College and hopefully success outside of school with Basketball. We look forward to representing the College at all the various sports available to us in the future. We would also like to encourage our fellow Year 7’s to represent our school in all sports!

By Isabella Manieri and Mitchell Evans, Year 7.
Futsal Competition- Junior team (Years 7 and 8):
This year Gilroy students have the option of participating and competing in a number of sporting events. On Wednesday afternoon the Gilroy Junior Girls indoor soccer team played their first game at the Dural Sport and Leisure Centre against Masada College.

It was always going to be difficult as one of our players could not make it. However, we worked together as a team and managed to win our first game 7-1. The team: Sophie Booth, Abbey Marfo, Milli Mackay, Isabella Liddle, Courtney Milone, Lydia Fatore, Evette Michael and Gabriella Piperata. Coach Morin and Coach Phillips were pleased with the result, but said there was room for improvement (such critics!!). We would like to thank all our parents for their support. We look forward to next week.

By Gabriella Piperata and Evette Michael.

Year 8 Report

Hi there Year 8! We hope that your first few weeks back at school have been good. As you all probably know, the season of Lent has arrived and Easter is just around the corner.

Easter is a time in which we must all respect and be kind to everybody around us. We are all really good at this, but during the Easter season we are all asked to try even harder to be a better person. We recently went to an Ash Wednesday liturgy, and we would like to remind you all that it is very important that we respect the Holy space that has been created. Although we would really like everyone to be involved in singing and to participate in the ceremony as much as possible, we must remember that we all have to respect one another’s beliefs. The liturgy was held in the hall, but it was converted into a Holy space that should be treated just as you would treat a church. Year 8 has set a great example in the past, and we would not like our exemplary behaviour to diminish.

Many of us have achieved great things throughout the week, and we would like to acknowledge them. Congratulations to Dean Street, who has made it into the State Volleyball team and Isabella Liddle, Lydia Fattore, Milly Mackay, Courtney Milone, Sophie Booth and Abby Marfo who won indoor soccer, 7-1! We would also like to congratulate Ben Connellan and Ryan Roche who both broke school swimming records. Keiran Sultana recently played his first cricket game and unfortunately lost, but well done to Keiran!

The junior boy’s cricket team also won their match on Thursday afternoon.

Year 8 has not only set a good example for the rest of the school, we are also representing the school excellently when in public. John Martinez found a wallet and money and handed it in to the office. Well done John!

Also, Year 8-101 has just planted their first crop for DT. The vegetables they are cooking include spinach, carrots, tomatoes and silver beet.

Well done to all of Year 8! Keep up all the good work!

By Louise Cochrane and Samantha Conn.
**Student Update**

**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.*

**Found:**
A pair of sunglasses found at the Year 10 Parent Information Evening on 16 February. Please contact the office for further details on 8853 8200.

**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.*

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**GILROY CATHOLIC COLLEGE YEAR BOOK**

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

Thank you for your patience.

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Looking for somewhere to advertise your business in 2009?

Gilroy Catholic College is now offering local business the opportunity of advertising in our College Newsletter at a minimal cost.

For further details please contact the School Office on 8853 8200 or email: www.gilroy.catholic.edu.au
Japanese Exchange Programme

Toya Otani High School will be arriving at Gilroy Catholic College on Wednesday 21st July 2010. They will be visiting Gilroy until Monday 2nd August. We require a number of host families for the Toyota Otani students. We would prefer families of students currently in Year 9 or 10.

At this point in time we do not know what the male/female ratio will be and we are unsure the exact number of families we will require to host.

A night will be held in Term 2 for families selected to host. If your family can host a student, please return the “Intention to Host” slip below to Mr Sullivan at your earliest convenience. We are expecting to know numbers on the first day back next term.

The school organises all activities on school days, while host families organise activities for their homestay student on weekends.

Students from Gilroy Catholic College will be invited to apply to travel to Japan in 2011 once the homestay is completed (usually later in Term 3).

Photographs from previous exchanges can be viewed on the Gilroy webpage under “Out and About”. Please contact me at school if you have any questions (8853 8200).

Tony Sullivan

Intention to Host a Student

I give my son/daughter/guardian permission to host a student from Toyota Otani High School.
I am able to host a
(Please tick).

Boy
Girl
Either a boy or girl

Student’s Name: ____________________________
Student’s Year: ____________________________
Parent’s Signature: _________________________
Date: ________________________________
**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.  
or  
Belinda: 0409 049 424

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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.

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membership@goldenkangaroos.net

[www.goldenkangaroos.net](http://www.goldenkangaroos.net)

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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](http://www.stmichaelssoccer.com)

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