From the Principal

Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

Last Sunday was the mid point in our journey to Easter and the Gospel was the well known story of the Prodigal Son. In my youth this Gospel always resulted in comparisons between my brother and me. As I reflected on this I was reminded of how often I had made similar comparisons between my own two sons. Although the parables were recorded for us to learn from, I doubt that the intention was so narrow as to allocate roles from family and acquaintances.

Comparisons of this nature rarely serve any useful purpose and to quote the Australian playwright Michael Gow, “comparisons are odious”. Each of us is a person in our right and we should be accepted as such. Sometimes in a search for consistency we lose the identity of the individual when we really should be searching for justice. The point of the Prodigal Son was not for us to identify people we know in the characters of the story, but to remind us of God’s unconditional love for us – despite the fact that we make poor choices in our lives, we are forgiven.

By the time you receive this newsletter Catholic Schools’ Week will be all but over. Open Day will have happened, our new Bishop will have celebrated the Diocesan Education Mass and Year 12 examinations are just a few days away. Catholic Schools’ Week is the more public attempt to acknowledge the evangelizing mission of our schools and this year’s theme is Open your hearts, open your minds. This clearly links with the message in the Gospel as we all need to be open to the invitation of reconciliation. A closed mind and a closed heart can never find forgiveness, accept compassion or see the beauty in those around us.

God bless, Brad.
**Leader of Welfare**

**Driving/Parking:**

- Certain driver behaviour is becoming a serious problem affecting our neighbours and the College.
- The school expects due courtesy from ALL motorists who come to the College - No Exceptions.
- Motorists need to note that Marie Street and Freeman Avenue are NOT ‘one way’ thoroughfares.
- The College expects that no motorist will hinder our neighbours’ rights to enter and leave their property. We would expect that all local residents are given the courtesy of free access. This should be the rule, not the exception!
- Claiming that you are ‘in a hurry’ is no excuse. Exercise caution in a ‘School Zone’.
- Be considerate of those residents who live in Marie Street, Freeman Avenue and Kerrs Road. They deserve no less than what you would expect at your home!
- The College Car Park is for Staff Only Parking. Parents are NOT to enter the Car Park between: 8am - 9am and 2.45pm -3.30pm.

*Mrs Jennifer Wakeling.*

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

**Literacy:**

The empowerment of all students, that is, the focus on students becoming confident, critical and highly literate humans, is a main goal at Gilroy for 2010 and beyond. At Gilroy, every teacher is responsible for providing students with the skills to be able to respond and create texts that reflect the context in which they are learning, and that can be transferred and communicated into the world in which they live. This year, the school is inquiring into Reading Comprehension with the aim to improve all students’ abilities to read for meaning. In addition, a group of teachers are working together (Literacy Action Team) to investigate the Literacy demands within the diverse curriculums of secondary schooling, with the aim to improve all students’ writing and critical thinking. All Year 7 & 8 students will be given targeted opportunities to develop the skills of becoming critical thinkers through participation in Critical Literacy lessons.

For Year 7 – this will be integrated into their INTEL lessons.

For Year 8 – this will be completed through a Critical Literacy workshop.

Students in Years 9-12 will develop critical literacy skills through their programs of learning.

**What is critical literacy?**

Although there are several versions of critical literacy, each underpinned by different theoretical perspectives, all of them involve an active, challenging approach to reading and textual practices. Critical literacy involves the analysis and critique of the relationships among texts, language, power, social groups and social practices. It shows us ways of looking at written, visual, spoken, multimedia and performance texts to question and challenge the attitudes, values and beliefs that lie beneath the surface.

**Critical literacy includes:**

- examining meaning within texts.
- considering the purpose for the text and the composer’s motives.
- understanding that texts are not neutral, that they represent particular views, silence other points of view and influence people’s ideas.
- questioning and challenging the ways in which texts have been constructed.
- analysing the power of language in contemporary society.
- emphasising multiple readings of texts. (Because people interpret texts in the light of their own beliefs and values, texts will have different meanings to different people).
- having students take a stance on issues.
- providing students with opportunities to consider and clarify their own attitudes and values.
- providing students with opportunities to take social action.
Why is critical literacy important?

Our lifestyles are changing rapidly in a hi-tech, globalised world. Changing societal structures, increasing social and cultural diversity and the marketing of ideas and products through multimedia mean that we need to think about literacy for lifelong learning in new ways. Information is reaching us in ways that hadn't been invented fifteen years ago. We are swamped by masses of information from sources across the globe. We need to be able to make meaning from the array of multimedia, complex visual imagery, music and sound, even virtual worlds that confront us each day in addition to written and spoken words.

Changes in society are occurring so rapidly that we need to take time to think about whether they will have positive or negative effects upon our ways of living. Asking questions such as:

- In whose interest?
- For what purpose?
- Who benefits?

Parents can support this process by having conversations with their children about the texts they see all around them. Next time you are driving and you hear the news or see a billboard, ask your son or daughter

- In whose interest?
- For what purpose?
- Who benefits?

and have them attempt to justify their answers. The more opportunities our students have to engage with texts and question their purpose the better they will become at being critical thinkers!

Ms Rose Garofano.

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.

Library News

Good Guys Castle Hill

Gilroy Catholic College finalised our membership of the Good Guys Reward Scheme "Support Your School".

The Support Your School program has been developed exclusively by The Good Guys Castle Hill for primary and high schools in the local area. The program gives your school the opportunity to earn reward dollars while also offering your school community great savings on all their purchases.

How does it work?

Every time a member of your school community makes a purchase of $25 or more at Nash Patel The Good Guys Castle Hill, they will start earning rewards for your school. Each $25 spend will receive a $1 Support Your School Reward Dollar. Your school will then be entitled to spend these reward dollars at our store.

Gilroy Catholic College Year Book 2009

Attention Year 12 2009 ex-students:
The Year Book is ready for collection.
Could all 2009 Year 12 ex students please come to School Office to collect a copy.
What are the benefits to my school?

Your school can use the Support Your School Rewards to purchase fantastic school equipment. The more reward dollars your school community can collect, the more products your school can earn. Last year schools earned over 200 free products, valued at over $16,000, including MP3 players, CD players, Digital Cameras, DVD players and Televisions. The Support Your School program has over 35 registered local schools.

For Gilroy parents, ask for the vouchers when you make your purchase, and then send them in to the SCHOOL LIBRARY for collation.

Mr Donovan, Teacher-Librarian.

**COMPUTER GAMES CANCELLED**

As of FRIDAY, 12 March, the playing of computer games in the Library is cancelled. Too many students need the computers for study purposes.

Latest Update from TAS Department

Design Tech Powerhouse Excursion:
Year 12 Design & Technology Students spent last Tuesday at the Powerhouse Museum in Ultimo.

We went there to attend a Board of Studies Seminar, which discussed the Major Design Project for D&T. The seminar speakers were experienced Design Technology teachers and markers. They shared hints, tips and expectations with the students, and also told some success stories of DT students post school.

The highlight of the day was viewing the 2009 MDP’s on display. Students were in awe of the projects and the design briefs that were chosen. Some of these projects have been earmarked for production, and have been shown on the New Inventors program. Students also saw a range of displays for the Whitehouse School of Design-Fashion Exhibition. These designs were exceptional, displaying creative uses for materials and apparel.

Ms Monique Dalli.
Year 8 Report

Assignments are due and sports have started. We can’t believe a year ago we were at Year 7 Camp.

This week a lot has happened including Josh Heuston and Amber McMahon made it to the Hills Baseball final, the outdoor cricket team made it to the grand final and Katie Abela made it to the next round for public speaking!

Brendan Cole was also selected to represent NSW as a member of the track cycling team at Nationals.

Coeliac Awareness Week is this week, 13-20th of March. Klara Streithorst has placed posters around the school and made an awesome speech last week, so please support her with this cause.

Recapping last week’s report, The World’s Greatest Shave was a huge success so we can congratulate everyone who helped and donated. The school was very colourful on Thursday! Also put your hands together for Isacc Gorman who raised over $1000 and shaved his head last Friday on the canteen steps. Project Compassion is going well but keep donating as every cent counts.

By Erika Aldegur and Rylee Kirchner.

Student Update

Uniform Shop Clearance:
The uniform shop is having a clearance sale of all OLD logo summer school shirts.

The sale is on OLD LOGO only, with a limited range of sizes and quantity in both boy/girl - blue/white summer shirts.
Shirts are reduced from $38.50 to $20.00 each.

No returns are available on sale items.

Thank you, Mrs Jenny Owens.

ST MICHAELS KNIGHTS SOCCER CLUB
2010 SEASON LATE REGISTRATIONS

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 this Wednesday 3rd March from 7:30pm to 8:30pm at Bella Vista Oval. Particularly looking for more U12 & U13 players. Please register this week.

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

Baulkham Hills Hawks Australian Football Club

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.

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

www.baulko.org.au

Oakhill College P & F Art & Craft Show

Featuring the works of Patrick Shirvington and a $500 and under art exhibition.

Date: 27 – 28 March
Time: 10am – 4pm
Where: Old Northern Road, Castle Hill

Opening Night Gala Cocktail Party

Friday 26 March, 7pm – 10pm
$25 prepaid or $30 at the door
Enquiries to Julie Mobile: 0411 232 008
Year 11 Biology Excursion to Penrith Lakes
GILROY CATHOLIC COLLEGE COUNCIL INVITES PARENTS & FRIENDS TO

The Great Gilroy Muster

26 June 2010
The Hills Club
Jenner St
Baulkham Hills
7.30pm - Midnight
$40.00 per person
Buffet Dinner & DJ

Pull on your boots, roundup your table of 8 and scoot on down to the Hills Club for our annual social get together.

DRESS: COUNTRY
MUSIC: 70’s, 80’s and 90’s

Further details in future newsletters

Enquiries: Loretta Wilson – 0419 260 637
Jacquie Anchique – 0401 684 325
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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**From the Bishop’s Office**

**Palm Sunday: World Youth Day 2010**

Bishop Anthony invites the youth of the Diocese to St Patrick’s Cathedral for a Youth Mass followed by Q&A session and BBQ on Sunday 28 March.

Gather in Prince Alfred Park opposite the Cathedral at 5.45pm for a blessing and procession leading into the Mass.

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**Ignite your 2010**

Join before 28 February and receive 1 month’s membership FREE!!!
1-on-1 Personal Training – designed for YOU!

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