Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

This past week of Lent saw three major feasts being celebrated by the Church that for one reason and another are not all remembered in the same celebratory way.

Firstly, on Wednesday 17th March the feast of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland was celebrated. Pope Celestine I in about 432 sent Patrick having appointed him as bishop to Ireland to work as a missionary and spread the Christian faith. As our newly appointed Bishop Anthony Fisher O.P. (of Parramatta) so rightly said at our Diocesan Education Mass on this day, Patrick worked tirelessly until he had converted the whole of Ireland to Christianity. I was wondering as to how many of us would work with such zeal and enthusiasm in spreading the Word of God? How would we go about evangelising to one another in this day and age?

Secondly, on Thursday 18th March the feast of St Cyril of Jerusalem was celebrated, a much lesser known saint of the Church, but nonetheless an important one. He was ordained in Jerusalem having been brought up there as a young boy. He was forever mindful of the plight of the poor and was soon exiled for selling church property in order to help them!

At long last, he was allowed to return to Jerusalem only to find that his community was divided by heresy. He spent the remainder of his life fighting this heresy of Arianism (the belief that said Jesus was not Divine). My challenge to others and myself are how far would we go in helping the poor? Would we be willing to risk helping the poor knowing that the outcome might be exile from our loved ones?

Last but not least, on Friday 19th March the feast of St Joseph was remembered. I often think he is not credited with too much influence in the bringing up of Jesus. Yet he was there at his Brit Milah (circumcision) a Jewish initiation rite where he gave Jesus his name. In troubled times, he took Mary and Jesus to Egypt for their safety, thus looking out for his family. Being a carpenter, he shared his love of woodwork with Jesus. He was overjoyed when he found Jesus in the temple having lost Him for the best part of a day. A humble man who knew that he was indeed honoured to be part of Jesus’ life….so we too should be privileged and honoured to be part of Jesus’ life.

Take care,

Roisin Robb.
**Leader of Welfare**

As we approach the end of Term 1, it would be appropriate to focus on the skill of persistence. This is one area in which teachers are endeavouring to help students develop their approach to learning. Parents can help by encouraging students to keep going and not give in at the slightest hurdle or difficulty.

Here are four practical strategies to promote a sense of persistence in your children, taken from *In Sights* by Michael Gross.

- Develop a vocabulary for persistence
- Hang tough
- Work hard
- Hang in there

Point out to children when they stick at a task.

Most parents know it pays off when you catch your children being good, but it also pays off to catch them being persistent. The behaviours you focus on as parents expand so let them know when they are being persistent. Also remind them that persistence generally pays off.

**Help children to remember** times when they experienced success by HANGING IN when they were younger. Let them know that persistence has paid off before and it will again.

**Talk about HARD WORK with your children:**

They need to understand that to be successful, they need to do things that are NOT fun or easy. While it would be good if all work and learning was fun, in reality this is not always the case.

*Mrs Jennifer Wakeling.*

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

**Defining Literacy:**

At Gilroy, as part of our focus on improving each student’s literacy skills, the teachers are working together to define the term Literacy with the aim of creating an effective Literacy Policy that will provide positive learning environments for all of our students. The process of defining the term Literacy is complex, especially given the vast range of published definitions that already exist. However, any definition of Literacy needs to acknowledge the context in which it is being examined and therefore, at Gilroy we are defining Literacy with a particular focus on:

**What are the Literacy needs of Gilroy students?**

With that frame in mind, we recognise that Literacy and Education is a partnership that involves the voices of all those involved in the education of a child – student, teachers, parents and System Leadership, and as a result we are asking students, teachers and parents to express their understanding of – **What is Literacy?**

Stephen Maggi et al define Literacy with the acknowledgment of the changing and evolving context in which our students live. They state:

Literacy has been defined in the past simply as the ability to read, write and understand numbers. While this definition may be too narrow, each of those elements forms the indispensable base for literacy. This fact has been shrouded during the past few decades by the claim that knowledge changes too fast to remain relevant for more than a short span of time.

The modern world is changing at a rapid rate - particularly terms, tools and ideas. Today’s marketplace is global, and American students must compete for jobs and higher education opportunities with peers from all over the world. Furthermore, the rapid pace of technological and scientific advances means that many jobs 20 years from now are still on drafting tables and in testing labs.
Adjusting to such a rapidly changing, global job market requires deep and nimble thinkers - people who have confidence that springs from true literacy.

Starting the process – Gilroy Action Inquiry Team DRAFT Definition

Literacy involves:
- Being able to communicate appropriately in different contexts and apply and understand cultural knowledge.
- Understanding and decoding texts.
- Multiliteracies/emergent literacies – product of prevalent, modern, multimodal texts.
- Empowerment of students – to understand and critically address their lives, and experiences and society.
- Not simply reading/writing, but also inclusive of speaking, viewing, listening.
- Recognition that language is central to cognitive process - we think in language, without command of complex language we cannot think in complex ways.
- Definable set of discrete skills associated with developing and improving literacy – it is reasonable to believe improvement can be ‘chunked’ into manageable parts that can be achieved by any student, regardless of age or ability.
- Participating effectively in society; confidence.
- Opportunities to enhance students’ thinking; creating texts that question and/or examine the world they live in.
- Communicating appropriately in different contexts.

At the next Parent Forum in Term 2, I will be working with parents in defining Literacy from a parents’ perspective, which will eventually be combined into the School Literacy definition. Ms Rose Garofano.

Library Update

Computers 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.

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.

Go online and checkout the following courses and opportunities:
- UMAT 2010
- Indigenous Teacher Scholarships
- Win an iPod
- UWS Mid-Year Entry Info Evening
- Up For A Challenge?
- Career in Media Studies
- Hills District Career Planning Evening
- Disability Employment Services
- Child Care Pre-Employment Program
- Science in the Suburbs

The Hills Shire Council Youth Week:

Take Charge, Aim Large: Career Training:
When: Saturday – 10 to Sunday 18 April
10am – 4pm each day
Where: Learn 2 Centre, Level 1, Suite 101
Vinegar Hill Memorial Library & Community Centre
Rouse Hill Town Centre, Rouse Hill
RSVP Monday 5 April.
Contact: Sarah Keen on P: 9891 1455 (sessions are free)

How Do I Choose a Career Pathway?
For: Young People aged 15-25 years
When: Wednesday 14 April 2010
7pm – 9pm
Where: Pioneer Room, Castle Hill Community Centre
Corner Pennant & Castles Streets, Castle Hill
Contact: Caroline Gardner on P: 9639 7999 or info@hillsSIP.com.au (free event)
**Youth Business Forum:**
*When:* Monday 12 April 10am – 4pm  
*Where:* Function Room, The Hills Shire Council 129 Showground Road, Castle Hill  
*Cost:* $25 pp  
*Contact:* [www.shiftinternational.net](http://www.shiftinternational.net)

For further information contact:  

Mr David Credaro, Careers Advisor.

**Latest Update from TAS Department**

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

Gilroy Catholic College supported the Leukaemia Foundation World's greatest Shave this year by trading a gold coin for some temporary colour hair spray. On the day Assistant Principal Maureen Moore, Miss Pauline Khodier, Mr Stephen Bushell and Miss Monique Dalli sprayed over 200 students, the school quad was an explosion of colour and smiles for support.

Three students were much braver, and did the shave; Isaac Gorman of Year 8 shaved in front of his peers and raised over $1300. James Joyce both coloured and shaved, raising almost $1000 with fellow shaver Blaine O'Brien. Miss Monique Dalli raised almost $700 from supportive staff, family students and friends and dyed her hair bright pink.

Many friends, family and Gilroy community members have experienced hard times with ill health, it was emotional and humbling to see young students go through with the shave and participate in the day’s activities in support of such a worthy cause.

Miss Monique Dalli.

**CAPA Department**

**Camera Round-Up Update:**
Thank you to Maria Mitchell for the donation of her 35mm Film Camera to our Photography Department. We appreciate it!  
Kristy Scott, CAPA Coordinator.
Year 8 Report

Work, work, work! It is the last three weeks of term and it’s a rush to finish our last few assessments.

In other news:

Isaac Gorman did a great job over the past few weeks and raised over $1300 for the World’s Greatest Shave. He shaved off all his hair for a great cause.

The indoor cricket team won their match and are now in the quarter finals. Good luck in the finals, let’s hope you can stay almost undefeated. The school outdoor cricket team lost their grand final. Good luck next year.

Katie Abela made it into the Metropolitan Final for Public Speaking. Good work!

The girls indoor soccer team won their match and are still undefeated.

Remember to keep donating to Project Compassion. Every cent counts.

School is out on Thursday 1st of April, so get ready for Easter!

By Lachlan Smith and Jake Kirchner.

Student Update

Just a reminder:

All students return to school in the second term in their winter uniform.

The winter uniform is:

♦ Long sleeve shirt for both girls and boys
♦ Tie for boys
♦ Blazer for everyone

Thank you, Mrs Jenny Owens.

Easter Mass Times

St Michael’s Baulkham Hills:
Holy Thursday: 7.30pm
Good Friday Stations of the Cross: 10.00am
Good Friday Afternoon Liturgy: 3.00pm
Easter Vigil Mass: 7.00pm
Easter Sunday Mass: 8.00am, 10.00am & 6.00pm.

Our Lady of Lourdes Baulkham Hills South:
Holy Thursday: 7.00pm
Good Friday Stations of the Cross: 10.00am
Good Friday Afternoon Liturgy: 3.00pm
Easter Vigil Mass: 6.00pm
Easter Sunday Mass: 7.30am & 9.30am.

St Bernadette’s Castle Hill:
Holy Thursday: 7.30pm
Good Friday Stations of the Cross: 9.30am & 12 noon
Good Friday Afternoon Liturgy: 3.00pm
Easter Vigil Mass: 6.00pm
Easter Sunday Mass: 7.30am, 9.00am, 10.30am & 6.00pm.

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
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
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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.

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Belinda: 0409 049 424

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membership@goldenkangaroos.net

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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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*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, our 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 (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-ome.”

– Tony Mai (Gilroy Catholic College Dux 09)

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

Please phone Andrew Wong (Gilroy Catholic College Dux 05), on 9469279100 or email to awong@emptyspace.org