

27 March 2009

Term 1 No.4



**Bethlehem College
Open Day, Tuesday,
17th March 2009**

Dear Parents, Students and Friends of Bethlehem,

Lent is a season of preparation for the great feast of Easter. There could be no better preparation than joining your church community for the Mass and blessing of palms Sunday week (Passion Sunday). The palms remind us of the great welcome given to Jesus as he entered Jerusalem in the last days of his life. When Jesus took up the cross on Calvary he took up everyone's cross, yours and mine as well.

*"Ours were the sufferings he bore,
ours the sorrows he carried" (Is: 52)*

OPEN DAY THANKS

Special thanks and congratulations are due to all who helped make this year's Open Day a wonderful celebration. Staff, students and parents worked together to show Bethlehem in action. Once again our guests spoke glowingly of the welcome they received and the excellent learning environment the school offers both in the classroom and within the extracurricular life of our College. They praised the student Ambassadors (over 140) who functioned as Tour Guides and also as subject guides in the classrooms complimenting all the students for the very positive climate that exists at Bethlehem. The ambassadors included students from Yrs 7-12. Given that Year 7 have only just commenced at the college I was so proud of their extensive knowledge of all that we do at the College and their pride of being a Bethlehem girl. Our wonderful Years 11 and 12 also had assessment tasks that week, but generously volunteered their time as well. Many of our guests commented that it was obvious that our students love their school. One of the blessings of being the Principal at Bethlehem is experiencing daily the wonderful spirit that exists at the College and the support that

everyone gives to make these special events so successful.

Hundreds of guests attended Open Day (it was quite amazing) which is a clear indication of the demand for places at the College. Indeed we have families completing expression of interest forms for their new born babies. We have enrolment applications up to the Year 2020. As a result of the demand last year we need to add an extra stream in Year 7. We will only be able to accommodate 5 streams in Year 7 next year so it will be very important that families complete their application forms and submit them before the end of term (enrolment interviews are conducted early May). Applications have come in thick and fast and therefore I am concerned that some families may miss out if they submit their application late. If you are aware of parents hoping to enrol their Year 6 daughter, please inform them that they will need to return their application form before the end of term, this also applies to siblings.

We will be conducting a selective stream Information evening on Tuesday 5th May commencing at 7.30pm in the College Hall. Our selective stream provides gifted students with opportunities to access higher order thinking, deeper understanding and more complex applications of the curriculum.

At the Selective Stream information evening, I will:

- Outline how Bethlehem College identifies Gifted and Talented students
- Suggest strategies for helping Gifted and Talented children at home
- Explain how the selective stream classes are structured at Bethlehem
- Detail the enrichment opportunities available for all students
- Answer parent questions about our Gifted and Talented program
- Provide details about our Performing Arts Scholarships

This evening will be informative not only for our Year 6 parents but also parents of students currently enrolled in the College. I hope you are able to attend.

Congratulations:

- To our amazing swimming team who have achieved outstanding performances in the pool at the recent CGSSSA competition. Special congratulations to **Lia Oliver** 1st in 50 m butterfly and 200m freestyle ranking 4th overall. 2nd in the 50m breaststroke, 1st in the 100m freestyle, 1st in the 100m breaststroke and an impressive 200m individual medley in which she came 1st in her division and 2nd overall. Also **Ashleigh Nguyen** placed 2nd in 50m freestyle, **Elizabeth Bell** 2nd in 50 m backstroke and **Kyra Oliver** 3rd in the 200m freestyle. WELL DONE GIRLS!!
- To all our Open Day helpers, over 200 girls volunteered on the night as either tour guides, classroom display guides, performers or prepared and served refreshments. Thank you also to our very generous staff all of whom supported in some capacity on the night and our wonderful parents, Mr & Mrs Whitby and Mrs Donna Silvestro.
- To the students who have volunteered and now have been trained to become mentor readers for the Smith Foundation. Special thanks to Mr John Whittaker for his work and support. Please see the news article by Mr Whittaker on page 6 of this newsletter which lists all the volunteer students.
- To the students who attended training for St. Vincent's Night Patrol. Also the very generous Year 11 students and staff who gave blood for the Red Cross on Thursday afternoon to support the Bush Fire Appeal. Our girls have great courage and compassion.
- To St. Ambrose Primary School, Concord West for their excellent Open Day for Catholic Schools Week.



(L-R) Louise Bezzina, Year 11, Dr Dan White, Executive Director of Catholic Schools, Mrs Cathy Young, Principal, St. Ambrose, Concord West and Mrs Anna Dickinson, Principal, Bethlehem College, Ashfield.

- To the following girls who accompanied me, Ms Wilson and Ms Percy on our feeder school visits over recent weeks. You are all superb ambassadors for Bethlehem College:

Year 7:	Luana Belmonte, Caitlin Foster, Jennifer Motha, Leova Smith, Paige McManus, Ester Pokorny, Annelise Theodoridis, Gabriella Taouk, Kyra Oliver, Michelle Abou-Antoun and Elizabeth Reaiche
Year 8:	Claudia De Leo, Ashleigh Mills, Marissa Toto, Christine Thomas, Stephanie Tecli, Karen Lee and Samantha Clemente
Year 9:	Jacinta Kim, Zoe Tombs and Elaine Sun
Year 10:	Genevieve Boutelet
Year 11:	Lauren Cheung, Emma Chau, Melania Berehovy, Priscilla Ayoub, Rika Borthwick, Marissa Valentinuzzi, Julia Towells, Alycia Fifita, Elizabeth Mora, Sarah Silvestro, Louise Bezzina and Antonia Tzortzis

Anna Dickinson
Principal

Assistant Principal News...

In the last week Years 7,8,10,11 and 12 have completed a session each in study skills. As a result, our school has subscribed to the ELES Study Skills Handbook. This is a great online resource for parents and students to address all their study skills issues and concerns as well as learn new ways to improve their results at school. The handbook has a huge amount of information for students and parents as well as a number of interactive activities.

The College Open Day was held on March 17th. I would like to thank and congratulate all our student helpers who gave their time and assistance so generously on the night. Over 150 students remained at the College after school hours to assist with Open Day. Many students acted as tour guides while others were stationed with subject displays answering questions. Feedback from our visitors on the night highlighted how well the students knew their school and how helpful they were.

Years 11 and 12 students will be undertaking end of term exam and assessment blocks in the next week. Please ask your daughter / young person in your care, about her exam timetable and how she is preparing for these important assessments. It is essential that students prepare themselves well with appropriate amounts of study, but also enough sleep. Students should also use this time before exams begin to clarify any questions with their teachers and Stage Coordinators.

A reminder that students return to school in Term 2 in winter uniform. It is expected that all students are in full winter uniform by May 4th. Throughout Terms 2 and 3 the college blazer is a compulsory uniform item and students are expected to wear it to and from school. All students should now have purchased the college backpack. This item is particularly important for Year 9 students, as the issue of school laptops will begin during Term 2. Please see details regarding the uniform shop opening times later in this bulletin.

Teash Richmond
Assistant Principal

Religious Education News...

Project Compassion

A warm thank you to your family. You are giving so generously to Caritas' Project Compassion. This week, being the fourth week of Lent, we've already raised approximately \$2,000. It would be great to raise more than \$4000 by the end of Lent and we're almost half-way to raising that. Please be aware that your donation goes directly to a struggling community and that it makes a permanent difference to the health and long term viability of the community by funding a permanent infrastructure project. For example in Papua New Guinea, your donation will be used to support an organic farming project run by the Archdiocese of Port Moresby. Not only have families learned farming skills, but younger people are learning leadership, community responsibility, cooking, health and hygiene. Many have gone on to further employment too. It should be comforting to know that your donation is making a difference to the quality of life of someone less fortunate.

If you have spare change at home, please send it in. We have a few spare *Project Compassion* boxes that families could take home and fill with any loose change. Any amount will make a difference.

Upcoming Dates:

- 9th April, Holy Thursday Liturgy at St Vincent's Church, 9.00am, all welcome.
- Friday 1st May, Year 9 Reflection Day, at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney.
- Thursday 7th of May, Mother's Day Breakfast and Mass, 8.00am breakfast at school, followed by Mass at 9.00am in St Vincent's Church.



All mothers, grandmothers, Godmothers, aunts and motherly-figures are cordially invited to the

Mother's Day Mass and Mother & Daughter Breakfast
Thursday 7th May

Breakfast from 8.00am
Mass at 9.00am with St Vincent's Parish

Lenten Prayer

Lord, we have not always acted with justice; we seek what is best for ourselves without heeding the cry of the poor and afflicted. Lord, we pray for all those who are victims of injustice and we ask you to enkindle within us the fire of your love to work for justice in our world.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Wayne Wheatley
Religious Education Coordinator

Curriculum News...

As we approach the end of Term 1, students will begin to enter a period of assessment. All students have been given a copy of their assessment calendar so that they can begin to manage their time and develop a study program. Learning is challenging and requires hard work. At Bethlehem College every student is provided the opportunity to succeed. Recent literature on learning suggests that the key to student success is to ensure that students:

- Actively participate in their learning
- Understand that high standards are expected
- Are challenged in their learning
- Take responsibility for their learning
- Work cooperatively and collaboratively with their teachers and peers

This week, Years 7 & 8 as well as Years 10, 11 & 12, all participated in a Study Skills Program. This program was tailored to meet the students' individual needs and gave them guidelines to assist with their study habits. All students have been given a password to access interactive online resources from home and are encouraged to use this. Year 9 will undergo a study skills program once they have been issued with their Mac computers early next term.

Staff at Bethlehem College are committed to ensure that all students engage in the best possible learning experience for them to succeed. To maximise your daughters' learning please encourage her to take responsibility for her learning by preparing for her end of term assessments.

Thank you

Silvana Rossetti
Acting Curriculum Coordinator

Answer for Brain Teaser No. 13 (Bulletin No. 3)

Congratulations to Michelle Kwak who had the correct answer for problem 13 – Ms Pantua ate 40 muffins. Please see Ms Rossetti for your canteen voucher.

Brain Teaser No. 14

The alarm clock has gone crazy.
It was correct at midnight but immediately began to lose twelve minutes per hour. It now shows one o'clock in the morning, but it actually stopped ten hours ago.
You should be at work for ten o'clock that morning.
Will you be late?

School Fees Reminder:

As we are quickly approaching the end of Term 1, I would remind parents that all fees should be paid in full by the end of term. If you are experiencing any difficulty in settling fees on time, please contact the Business Manager, Mrs. Jo Condon, to discuss how we may be able to assist. Thank you.

Retail-Coles Excursion Report...

On Friday the 20th of February Bethlehem College Year 12 retail students went on an educational excursion to Coles supermarket in Ashfield Mall. We were warmly welcomed by the Coles staff especially our ex Retail student Miss Rita Alam who gave up her time to share her knowledge and skills with us along with her helper Miriam. The afternoon was highly informative as we had the opportunity to become familiar with, and use the technologies at the point of sale. We engaged in operating the terminal, scanning items, typing in PLU and identification numbers and using the cash register. We are now more informed with matters such as money orders, delivery policy, refund policies and closing sale procedures. The afternoon was thoroughly constructive thanks to Rita Alam who had made it an exceptional experience. Her efficiency in retail knowledge and skills has successfully promoted her to a managerial position. She is now a department manager for general merchandise. What we did at Coles was both educational and enlightening. We didn't know that the point of sale terminal was more than just a sales point. The experience we had at Coles was helpful as it gave us an insight of the skills required for both recent and existing technologies and the importance of interacting with customers. I believe most of us are now opened to varied career paths existing in the retail environment. The excursion provided us with a greater understanding of point of sale handling procedures which will be relevant for our HSC exams.

Apadic Koul and Catherine Conneely



Important Dates Term One 2009

30 March	Yr12 Exams commence
30 March	Yr9 IST Excursion
1 April	Yr7 Music Performance incursion
2 April	Yr11 Assessment Block Exams commence
3 April	Yr10 PASS Excursion
3 April	Night Patrol
3 April	Lenten Program 8.15am Chapel
9 April	Holy Thursday / Last Day for Term 1
	(NO ACTIVITIES THIS DAY)
	FULL SCHOOL UNIFORM

SRC News...

Hi Girls! This is a quick update on the escapades of your 2009 SRC.

Between events including Open Day and the Opening Mass, Term 1 has been full steam ahead with our numerous fundraising initiatives. The SRC thanks all students who supported the SRC during our Valentine's Day cake stall. The money raised will go to the schools contribution to the Victoria Bushfire Fund. We would also like to congratulate our peers for the generosity they showed by contributing a gold coin for mufti during the Swimming Carnival, also to go to the Bushfire Fund.

Likewise, Faith in Action and CARE have been busier than ever with Pancake Day and Clean Up Australia Day. Mai and Iris would like to thank all the students who participated in these events.

On behalf of the Year 12 cohort we would also like to extend our thanks to our Year 7 Little Sisters, Fiona, Samantha and Ms Wilson for the Tuesday Easter Egg Exchange. It was great fun to have time with our little sisters again.

Finally, the SRC would like to acknowledge the students who represented the College last week in the CGSSSA Swimming and Touch Football competitions. Well Done Girls!

Remember, please give generously to the Caritas Project Compassion Fundraiser during our Lenten Season!

SRC

Uniform Shop—Winter Uniform purchase...

Students may purchase the winter uniform at recess or lunchtime. Parents can also ring through to the Uniform Shop with credit card details and students can pick up phone orders at the Uniform Shop at recess or lunchtime. Cheques should be made payable to TALEB AUSTRALIA.

Tracksuit:	\$125.00
Long sleeve blouse:	\$ 42.00
Tunic:	\$107.00
Stockings:	\$ 8.00

All school bags are available:

Smart pack:	\$ 49.00
Medium Chiro:	\$ 77.00
Large Chiro:	\$ 81.00
Carabee:	\$ 88.00

PLEASE NOTE: The news sports cap has arrived in the Uniform Shop.

The Uniform Shop will be open on **SATURDAY 28TH MARCH** from 9.00am-12.00noon and **THURSDAY 9TH APRIL** from 10.00am -1.30pm.

Please note the shop will be **CLOSED** on **GOOD FRIDAY 10TH APRIL.**

Uniform Shop Hours...

Uniform Shop Hours as follows:
Tuesday & Friday 10.00am - 1.30pm
Phone Number 9799 6163
CASH/EFTPOS or CREDIT CARDS accepted
Cheques payable to TALEB AUSTRALIA
Lay-bys available

Bethlehem College—Sports News



As you may be aware - the last two weeks have been very busy weeks for Bethlehem College Sport!!!

On Friday 13th of March Ms Stewart and I took 2 teams to CGSSSA Volleyball at Homebush. The Junior team played extremely well but missed out on the semi's. The Senior team went through undefeated until their final game which they lost to Santa Sabina. They then went on to play Monte in the Semi finals narrowly being defeated. These girls should be congratulated for their spectacular efforts and enthusiasm which showed in these fabulous results!! Congratulations also to Ms Stewart who has coached these teams for the past couple of years to get them to this standard!!

Last Wednesday Mr Eirth and Mrs Kells took a group of students to CGSSSA Touch. All students participated to the best of their ability, however they just missed out on semi's. Special thanks to Mr Eirth (coach) and Mrs Kells (manageress) for all their work leading up to the day!

Last Thursday Mrs Kells, Ms Percy, Mr Eirth & Mr Doyle (one of Bethlehem's Cricket coaches) took all of Year 9 to the Australian Womens Cricket Test who played against England at North Sydney Oval. According to all reports our students were fantastic in both their attitude and enthusiasm. Thanks to Mrs Kells for organising this and to those staff who attended for your enthusiastic support of sport at Bethlehem!

Last Friday Ms Percy and Mrs Kells took a team to CGSSSA Swimming at Ryde. We had some fabulous swims with a few students swimming PB's and receiving ribbons for 1st, 2nd and 3rd! To top the day in the Overall Point score we defeated both Rosebank and Domremy! Congratulations and thank you to Ms Percy for taking the squad before school for training in order to assist students to participate to the best of their ability. Well done!



Thanks to all staff who have given our students these opportunities.

Lenore Dew, PDHPE Coordinator

CGSSSA Touch Football News...

On Wednesday the 18th of March, junior and senior touch players competed in the annual CGSSSA Touch Football competition held at Doyle ground, North Parramatta. The teams were trained prior to the games and had a sense of hunger for a win. Both junior and senior teams played well by utilizing taught strategies and using fantastic ball skills. Both teams played 3 games and some of the matches were very close—it was often left to the last minute to determine who had won.

Bethlehem touch players displayed good team working skills which lead to some good tries and exceptional plays. The day was enjoyable and a valuable learning experience for all especially those new to the game of touch football.



Special thanks to Mr Eirth and Mrs Kells who gave up their lunchtimes and after school hours to train the teams, your time was greatly appreciated. Touch football continues in Term 4 as a MCCS competition and I encourage all girls to try out for the team.

CGSSSA Swimming News...

On Friday the 20th of March Bethlehem College swimmers headed to Ryde Aquatic centre for the annual CGSSSA competition. The competition was fierce with future Stephanie Rice figures mounting the blocks and diving into the pool. This however did not overthrow the Bethlehem College swimmers who put on a stellar performance in division 2 for freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly. Exceptional performances were delivered by Lia Oliver who came 1st in the 50m butterfly as well as 1st in the 200m freestyle ranking 4th overall, 2nd in the 50m breaststroke, 1st in the 100m freestyle, 1st in the 100m breaststroke and an impressive 200m individual medley in which she came 1st in her division and 2nd overall. Other impressive performances included Ashleigh Nguyen who

was placed 2nd in 50m freestyle, Elizabeth Bell 2nd in 50m backstroke and Kyra Oliver 3rd in the 200m freestyle. A notable mention should go to Lia Olivia who swam a personal best in all her races. All swimmers are to be congratulated on their outstanding performances and their participation on the day. The College was represented very well and a big thank you must go to Mrs Kells and Ms Percy who accompanied the team on the day and made sure everything was in order. There is much to look forward to in the future swimmers of Bethlehem College. Who knows, there may be an immersing Libby Lenton in our midst!

Catherine Conneely, Sports Captain

Bethlehem College—English News



FROM THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

OPEN DAY

Thank you to the English staff and particularly to Erika McRae and Samantha Khoury of Year 12 and Katherine Castillo and Carla Corte of Year 8 who promoted English with such grace. The quality of the presentations and information to parents provided by these students was exemplary. The students were able to articulate to parents the variety of resources and approaches in teaching English, as well as recounting their own positive experiences in the English classroom. On behalf of the English staff, thank you!

UNIVERSITY OF NSW ENGLISH COMPETITION

Once again, the **University of New South Wales 2009 Australasian Schools English Competition** is being run for all students in Years 7-11. The rationale behind assessing all students is for the English department to effectively use the data in order to plan for the National Curriculum in English. This assessment also be used as a diagnostic tool in order to cater to the diverse needs of all students. The cost of this assessment is \$6.60 and will be billed on the Term 2 school fees.

For over 20 years, Educational Assessment Australia (EAA) of the University of New South Wales has been conducting this competition. This competition forms the largest independent assessment program for schools in Australia, New Zealand, Asia, India, South Africa, Hong Kong, China and the Pacific Region.

This is also an exceptional and cost effective opportunity to assess the knowledge and skills your daughter has achieved, as this exam provides comprehensive feedback to parents and carers.

PUBLIC SPEAKING AND DEBATING NEWS

The Zone Final of the Catholic Schools Debating Association Public Speaking Competition was held on Friday 13th March at Santa Sabina, Strathfield. The College was represented by **Pascale Chung of Yr 9. The College is extremely proud of Pascale who represented the College with pride. I must also thank Ashley Ayoub and Samantha Khoury of Year 12** who acted as chairperson and timekeeper in Round 1 of the competition held at La Salle, Bankstown. Thank you to Mrs Kelly and Mrs Dickinson who also supported Pascale in her preparation and were present at the Zone final.

Three students (Rozina Ibrahim, Chantelle Succar – Year 10, Lia Oliver, – Year 9) will be representing Bethlehem at the **Rostrum Voice of Youth Competition** which will be held on Thursday 2nd April at MLC, Burwood. This is a vigorous competition which requires students to present both prepared and impromptu speeches to an audience. These girls have been busily preparing their presentations and we wish them the best of luck.

A **Debating Workshop** is being organized for all debaters, adjudicators and coaches in **Week 10 (Monday 30th March 2009)**, as well as **one hour coaching clinics** (to be **negotiated on a nominated day after school**) to be held for the rest of the Debating season. There will also be a **one day holiday workshop on Thursday 16th April 2009 from 9am to 4pm. The Debating workshop, the one day holiday workshop and the weekly coaching clinics are COMPULSORY for ALL debaters.**

This is also a wonderful opportunity for students to build their confidence, develop skills in speaking in a variety of situations, team work, and the ability to develop arguments on a given topic within a given period of time. These skills are relevant in all our lives and will assist students in becoming effective communicators.

There are also many other exciting competitions happening in English which are aimed at all students:

University of NSW Writing and Spelling Competitions
Short story and Poetry competitions (Write4fun competition)
Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards
What matters? Writing competition

These competitions have fantastic prizes – cash, ipods, cds, etc – **YOU'VE GOT TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT!**

And many, many more.....

See Mrs Kelly for entry details of these competitions

GO BETHLEHEM!

Mosh Mavrakis
English Coordinator

Bethlehem College—Various News



Just Leadership Day.....



A group of eight Bethlehem students were accompanied by Miss Boland on March 4th 2009 to attend a Just Leadership Day at Santa Sabina College Strathfield. The day held many fruitful outcomes for all the Bethlehem girls that attended. Within us we already have the ability to guide, direct and support others. But it was Pattison Dobson's inspirational comments that showed us how to make these qualities grow. His determination to advocate equality for all indigenous people encouraged us to challenge the attitudes people held about how justice can be achieved. The central theme of the day rendered around Oscar Romero's quote 'Aspire not to have more but to be more.' As we engaged into the activities of the day we recognised that anyone can become a leader. We all have the capacity to transport a message to others. The difference lies in how we can cultivate this message. We reflected on these thoughts as we ended the day with the question 'Are you just a leader or are you a just leader?'

Elizabeth Mora Yr 11

Smith Foundation Mentor Reading Program....

On 18th March students completed training to become mentor readers for the Smith Foundation. Students will listen to younger readers 2 to 3 times a week over the phone and offer valuable guidance and assistance. The volunteers will complete the program in Terms 2 and 3. Good luck!!!

Congratulations to the following students who volunteered.

Nikita Thompson
Jana Katsoulas
Madeleine Whitby
Millie Burrell
Chirley Pham
Stephanie Mora
Claire Jennings
Christine Francis
Elaine Sun
Maria Phung
Jacinta Kim

Patty Psychogios
Tina Bair
Zoe Tombs
Chloe Lau
Erin Rudolph
Angelica Panopoulos
Lianna Ayoub
Imogen Llewellyn
Michelle Adamescu
Apadic Kuol
Maraya Vavasis

Congratulations

John Whittaker
Stage 5 Assistant Coordinator

CEO
Sydney

Catholic Education Centre, Lidcombe—Parents' Computer Courses—Term 2, 2009

The CEO Lidcombe will be running various computer courses during Term 2 (Week 1 to Week 10). Courses include Beginners Basic Word Processing, WP—a little further on, WP-Advanced, Organise and manage your computer, Search the Internet/Email, Powerpoint and Excel.

A copy of the flyer from the CEO is attached to this newsletter or if you require any further information or wish to enrol please phone Judy Green or Heidi Skehan on 9643 3600, Fax 9643 3609 or email iw.reception@ceosyd.catholic.edu.au