

8 April 2009

Term 1 No.5



Dear Parents, Students and Friends of Bethlehem,

This week we re-live the events of Christ's life in liturgy. We are invited on a journey of transformation, commencing with Holy Thursday, followed by Good Friday and culminating in Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday. This is a time when we are invited to foster joy and optimism and reject sadness. When we are happy we are the stimulus and encouragement to other people who are sad. We have so much to be joyous about during this Easter Season because death has been destroyed and eternal life ensured. At Easter, joy is a tribute that we owe God. Joy is the simplest, most sincere way to say "Thanks" for the gifts of nature, life and grace that have been bestowed on each and every one of us. I pray that each member of the Bethlehem community has great joy and peace this Easter and throughout the year.

*Let us put ourselves into the hands of the Lord,
And pray that God will bless us and our families during the
coming holy days.
May each of us help to make our homes places of joy, love
peace and safety.
May we be generous and considerate,
Helping others keep the celebration of the dying and rising of
our Lord and Saviour,
Jesus Christ, and until we gather together again next term,
God bless all of us*

Thank You:

Special thanks to all students and staff for your generous support of Project Compassion. Your special efforts in supporting those who are in need demonstrates your understanding that we have a responsibility to care for others.

Caring for others changes the lives of those who give as well as those who receive.

As the term draws to a close I wish to thank all members of the Bethlehem community for an excellent Term 1 2009. The girls are responding beautifully to our high expectations. I believe that their positive response is a result of the consistent application of these high expectations across the entire school community. I appreciate the parent's support of these high expectations as well. We are all focused on the same three things:

- **Ensuring that the girls grow in their faith and then apply their faith in action.** Examples of their faith in action include; the kindness they show to each other and their teachers, their willingness to support one another at school, their willingness to help the wider community; their involvement this term in St. Vincent de Paul Night Patrol, Project Compassion, Collection for the Bush Fire Appeal, Blood Drive for the Bush Fire Victims, volunteering to become Catechists in the public schools and Clean up Australia Day are just a few examples, there are many more.
- **Ensuring that the girls apply consistent effort in their learning.** As I walk around the school I constantly witness the students engaged in their learning. I observe excellent teaching practice which involves a combination of teacher input with students

then actively involved in their learning by either working in teams, researching topics or indeed constructing knowledge as they explore new ways of understanding the topics they are engaged in. I regularly witness the use of 21st Century devices such as the Promethian (SMART) board, computers and other technology devices being used as tools to enhance student learning. I witness staff differentiating the learning experiences to meet the needs of all the learners in their classroom as well as students working in small groups with a teacher to support their individual needs. Staff are also learning together in small groups as they are professionally developed; in the use of technology, in differentiation and in analysing data to improve student learning. I also constantly observe the long hours all staff give to create the very best learning experiences for our girls.

- **Ensuring we have consistent high standards, examples are:** Consistent homework patterns, the excellent use of the student planner, excellent attendance (which includes arriving to school on time), wearing the college uniform correctly at all times, excellent behaviour, excellent behaviour travelling to and from school, ensuring the school environment is clean both inside and outside the classroom and caring for all college resources. The education of the girls is a partnership between the school and the family. This partnership flourishes each time we have the opportunity to meet. I look forward to the many opportunities we have to meet and work together once again in Term 2. These opportunities include:

1. Selective Stream Information Evening May 5th 7.30 pm in the College Hall. At the information evening I will:

- Outline how Bethlehem College identifies its Gifted and Talented students.
- Provide helpful advice for supporting Gifted and Talented students at home.
- Explain how the selective stream classes are structured at Bethlehem.
- Detail the range of enrichment opportunities provided for all students at the College.
- Respond to parent questions.

2. Mother's Day Breakfast and Mass May 7th commencing at 8am for Breakfast followed by Mass with the Parish at 9am.

3. Parent's and Friends Group meeting: May 19th 7.30pm in the College Hall. This meeting will also have as its focus the Yr9 laptop program. All parents of Yr9 students will be expected to attend as laptops will be issued at the end of the evening.

4. Years 11 and 12 Parent/ Teacher and Student evening 12.30 – 9pm (compulsory event for all students and their parents in Yrs 11 and 12).

5. Bethlehem College Athletics Carnival Tuesday 9th June at Homebush Athletics Centre.

6. Year 10 Information Evening for enrolment into Yr 11 2010 Tuesday 30th June 6.30pm (compulsory for all students wishing to progress to Yr 11 2010 – parents must also be in attendance to complete the required enrolment paperwork).

7. Years 7-10 Parent/ Teacher/ Student Interviews Monday 6th July 8.30 am – 9pm (report cards are collected – this is a compulsory event for students and their parents in Years 7-10).

8. Bethlehem Day Thursday 9th July commencing with Mass in the Parish Church.

9. Friday Evening Catholic Schools Debating Competition commencing Week 1, Friday 1st May.

Once again we thank you for your willingness to be involved in the life of the College and your presence at these events.

CONGRATULATIONS:

- To all students in Years 11 and 12 who have now completed their Term 1 examinations. We congratulate them on their preparation for these exams and the mature and responsible way they are approaching their learning.
- To all students who entered their Art work in the Clancy Religious Art Exhibition and the Ashfield Council Youth Week exhibition at the historic Thirning Villa. I must say that I was smiling from ear to ear; the art works were excellent in both exhibitions and at the Ashfield Council exhibition most of the works were Bethlehem students work.
- To the Junior and Intermediate MCCS Volley ball teams. Both teams have made it through to the semi-finals to be played on the first Thursday of Term 2.
- To Lia Oliver (Yr 9) for her selection to represent CGSSSA at the NSW Combined Catholic Colleges Swimming Carnival in the 200m individual medley.
- To Lia Oliver, Chantelle Sukkar and Rosy Ibrahim for their excellent public speaking skills at the Rostrum Voice of Youth Competition.
- To Eriikka David, Kaylene Chan, Lia Oliver and Kaitlin Gallagher who have applied for the CEO Gifted and Talented Science Crest Award.

- To the students involved in the Scientists in Schools CSIRO initiative:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Caitlin Galagher	Ashleigh Mills	Madeleine Whitby
Dora Zhang	Karen Lee	Mary Daoud
Natalie Cavagnino	Christine Thomas	Rosa Kim
Claudia Maroun	Natalie Sng	Elaine Sun
Chanel Lu	Michelle Sng	Mariya Tkachenko
Kermina Kiriacos	Gabrielle Hunter	Natasha Lambert

- To the 10A Science class who will be participating in the Australian Brain Bee Challenge. The Australian Brain Bee Challenge (ABBC) motivates young people to learn about the brain - and has been created to inspire students to pursue careers in neuroscience research.
- To Eriikka David, Kary Lai and Sadickchhya Gautam who applied for the 35th Professor Harry Messel International Science School. This year the theme of the ISS will be Genes to Galaxies with two central themes of astronomy & evolution tying in with the International Year of Astronomy and the sesqui centenary of the publication of Charles Darwin's "On the Origin of Species".
- To Emma Chau who has been sponsored by Rotary to enter the National Youth Science Forum. This event is in Canberra and Perth and offers students in Year 11 an opportunity to test-drive a career in the Science, technology and engineering.
- To Natasha Villanova of Year 8Blue who has been selected to perform in the USA. She will perform at Disneyworld, Universal and the Navigator of the Sea's Caribbean Cruise. Natasha has worked very hard for the past year for this trip and will be leaving with the dance group from Dorothy Cowie School of Dancing on the 4th of April.

Special thanks to all our debating coaches who will give many hours of coaching throughout the debating season as well as witnessing the students debate on Friday nights in Term 2. In particular we wish to thank Mrs Mavrakis, Mrs Kate Kelly, Ms Anne Ffrench, Mr James Eirth, Mr Tim Doyle, Mrs Denise Shields, Ms Marie Boland, Mr Ettore Cinque, ex-students Brandy Tsang and Noeleene Yap and to Mrs Bernadette Burrell, mother of Sophie in Yr12 and Millie in Yr9.

I also thank Mrs Mavrakis who ran an excellent debating workshop for our students after school last week. I also thank the students for attending another debating workshop during the holidays on Thursday 16th April to ensure they have all the required skills to be effective debaters

Palm Sunday Celebrations World Youth Day 2009

The first World Youth Day was held in Rome in 1986 on Palm Sunday. On each Palm Sunday since, World Youth Day has been celebrated at a Diocesan level. Every 2-3 years, an international gathering celebrates WYD in a selected host city. The last gathering of this scale occurring in Sydney last July. In 2009, to mark the 24th World Youth Day, Sydney's Catholic communities are encouraged to celebrate Palm Sunday in their local parish. We encourage students, staff and their families to participate in these celebrations.

The 2009 Palm Sunday celebrations are particularly significant as an Australian delegation will be travelling to Rome to hand the World Youth Day Cross and Icon over to representatives of World Youth Day 2011 which will be held in Madrid, Spain. There will be live coverage of this handover at approximately 8.00pm on Palm Sunday on the Archdiocese of Sydney's international online network xt3.com. Many of Sydney's parishes will hold special gatherings to witness this handover. Further details on the Palm Sunday celebrations are available on RE Online.

Term 2: Return Date and Uniform requirements

School will recommence on **TUESDAY 28TH APRIL**. All students will be expected to return in full winter uniform. Winter uniform requirements are detailed in the student planner. Blazers are a compulsory item of clothing during winter in Terms 2 and 3. Students are expected to wear their blazer to and from school each day. The jumper can only be worn under the blazer. On Thursday students in Years 7-10 will be expected to wear their full tracksuit to school which includes the tracksuit jacket. The jumper can only be worn under the tracksuit jacket on Thursdays. Please ensure that the junior tunic and blazer is dry-cleaned over the term holiday break so that your daughter's uniform is spotlessly clean. Please ensure that students in Yr 7-10 have tried on their tunic before school commences so that the hem can be altered if necessary before school commences. Tunics are expected to be worn covering the knee. Please ensure stockings are in perfect order as well. I look forward to welcoming the girls back to school on Tuesday the 28th April and witnessing them wearing their uniform perfectly demonstrating that they belong to our great college.

Farewell function for Br. Kelvin Canavan, fms

As you are aware Br. Kelvin is retiring from his position as the Executive Director of Schools in the Archdiocese of Sydney. Over the last few months Br. Kelvin has been supporting the new Executive Director Dr. Dan White (former Executive Director of the Tasmanian Catholic Education office), as he settles into his new role in Sydney. There is a series of farewell functions planned for Br. Kelvin to acknowledge his outstanding and distinguished service to Catholic Schooling in Sydney since his appointment to the Catholic Education office in 1968. For school communities in the inner west there is a function planned on Tuesday 5th May at Dooley's Catholic Club, 24 John Street Lidcombe. This is an open invitation to give an opportunity for as many as possible to be present at a community gathering. There will be similar gatherings for school communities in the east and southern regions. Br. Kelvin would be delighted to see staff, students and parents at these gatherings. If you are able to attend, please indicate by returning the reply slip included in this newsletter. There will also be a Eucharistic Celebration of Thanksgiving for Br. Kelvin's leadership at St. Mary's Cathedral on Thursday May 7th at 7.30pm. The Principal Celebrant will be His Eminence Cardinal Pell, Archbishop of Sydney. Once again all members of the community are warmly welcome to attend. I would be delighted if you could join me at these functions.

Anna Dickinson
Principal

Assistant Principal News...

As the term ends, Bethlehem students have finalised assessments and exams as well as keenly anticipating the school holidays. In the recent weeks Year 7 students have participated in a Music Workshop, Year 10 visited Cronulla Beach for Geography, students working with the CSIRO Scientists in Schools project completed an energy audit of the College and Years 11 and 12 have completed important exam blocks. Term 1 has been a highly productive and rewarding time!

As a follow up to our recent study skills sessions, Pru Salter from ELES presents the following advice for students using the online support.

"A number of students have submitted questions recently to www.studyskillshandbook.com.au asking how you actually study for a test. Do you just read through what you did in class? The answer is definitely that you have to do more than just read if you want to remember and be able to apply the information. Firstly you should make some point form notes on what you read in your textbook and classnotes. This will get you to think about what you are reading. Once you have condensed the information you need to learn into a set of study notes, you then need to start memorizing this information by testing yourself on it. Read a section, then see what you can say out loud or write down without looking. You will need to do this over and over until you find you can easily remember the information. But that is not enough either! You also have to see how well you have understood what you have learnt and whether you can apply the information. This means doing as many questions as you can and checking your answers – going back and doing questions out of your textbook or from revision sheets, doing practice essays, whatever types of questions you will have to do in the test. And of course, you then ask for help on anything you can't do or don't understand. Visit the Active Studying Unit for more detail on how to improve the way you study."

This month in the handbook 2 new modules are online (Managing Workload and Dealing with Distractions), more submissions from students, a podcast on how to study and some new features for teachers. Visit the What's New page for details.

We encourage all students to access the online study skills handbook. It is an excellent resource that reinforces the concepts covered in the recent study skills sessions. Students have been issued with the college logon and password. Students who may need this information again can collect it from the school office.

Our Easter Liturgy will take place on Thursday April 9 at 9.00am at St. Vincent's Church. As there will be no sporting activities on this day students are expected to attend in full school uniform **not sports uniform**. Parents and carers are most welcome to join the college community for the Easter Liturgy.

I would like to wish parents and students a happy and Holy Easter and a safe and restful holiday break

Teash Richmond
Assistant Principal

Religious Education News...

Project Compassion

Thank you to all families for your generous support of Caritas' Project Compassion. This means that families in developing nations will have an improvement in their standard of living. The gift from your family, combined with all other families within the College, is a loving gesture from our small community to another small community that is doing it tough somewhere else in the world. This is the meaning of Easter.

Your donation will change the lives of not just one family, but a whole community. This will also have an incredible legacy that will transcend generations. Caritas community projects are truly "a gift that keeps on giving".

We have raised over \$3,000 as a College community. Thank you also to the students who helped raise more money by making and selling badges for *Earth Hour*. Elizabeth Mora and Chanell Galanto raised an extra \$67.15 for Project Compassion by initiating this project. Well Done!

Mother's Day Breakfast and Mass, Thursday 8th May

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

Please RSVP to the front office by Friday 1st May for catering purposes. An invitation is enclosed with this newsletter.

Easter

As we enter into Holy Week and then Easter, the most important period in the Christian Liturgical Calendar, we ask that parents spend a little time with their children reflecting on the meaning of Easter.

Traditionally in Australia it is the longest "long weekend" of the year, but it has a deeper religious significance to our catholic Christian community. Across all parishes in the archdiocese, and across Australia and the world, new adult members will be welcomed into the Catholic Church.

Please find time to attend your local parish and if you already regularly do, please invite a family that might also be interested and who might not normally attend.

If your looking for a parish or travelling across Sydney, parish mass times can be found at: <http://www.sydney.catholic.org.au/Parishes/parishMassTimes.ASP>

God Bless and have a safe, happy and holy Easter.

Wayne Wheatley
Religious Education Coordinator

Important Dates Term Two 2009

28 April	Term 2 Commences
30 April	Sports activities begin
1 May	Year 9 Reflection Day
1 May	CSDA Debating Round 1 Domremy, Five Dock
1 May	Night Patrol
7 May	Mother's Day Mass & Breakfast
8 May	CSDA Debating Round 2 Bethlehem College
12-14 May	NAPLAN Years 7 & 9
15 May	CSDA Debating Round 3 Christian Bros, Lewisham
19 May	P&F Meeting 7.30pm in College Hall
16,18,20 May	Year 7, 2010 Enrolment interviews
23&25 May	Year 7, 2010 Enrolment interviews

Brain Teaser No. 15

Which letter completes the series?
I S H X O

Students are invited to solve this problem, and deposit the answer, marked clearly with name and homeroom, in the box in the General Office by 3pm on **Friday 1st May**. The first correct entry drawn will receive a canteen voucher!!!!

Last week's solution: Yes, you will be late. It is really 11.15am.

Unfortunately, no one correctly answered last week's teaser. You will have all the holidays to solve Problem 15, so put your thinking hats on and get your entries in.

Janet Mann
Curriculum Coordinator

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

The Uniform Shop will be open on THURSDAY 9TH APRIL 10.00am-1.30pm. This will be the last trading day for Term 1. The Uniform Shop will re-open on the first day back for Term 2, TUESDAY 28TH APRIL 10.00am-1.30pm.

Please note students are required to return on TUESDAY 28TH APRIL in FULL WINTER UNIFORM.

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

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**



Geography Excursion...



On Friday the 27th of March, Year 10 went on a Geography excursion to Cronulla. The day started off great! As we arrived the students were split into 4 different groups, each group having a fantastic leader who instructed them throughout the day. During the day the students were engaged in various activities around the beach. We observed different species of flora which were grown on the primary dunes of the beach and recorded the wind speed at various locations.

Under the guidance of the instructor we used a clinometer and a measuring tape to compile data of the angles and distances of the sand dunes. While we were engrossed in this process, it started to rain heavily. We quickly managed to pack up and head into a hall, and utilized this time to have our lunch. After lunch we had a chance to look and analyze a couple of maps. These maps showed us the differences between the beach in 1970 and in 2002. We also saw the sea wall they are building to protect the beach from erosion. This trip was an enriching experience as we were exposed to a different dimension of the beach. Overall the Year 10 Geography excursion to Cronulla was an incredible success. We would like to thank all the teachers; Mr Whittaker, Ms Wilson, Ms Farhart and Mr Attaalla who were there to support and guide us and for making this excursion possible.



Jerusha Thompson 10Red

Bethlehem College—Faith in Action News



Thank you to the senior FIA students, who donated blood on 26th March, 2009. These girls should be commended for taking the initiative of donating their blood to help those who were affected by the Victoria bushfires. Well done girls! It certainly took courage facing what must have been a daunting experience – needles and all! You've shown the selflessness and charity that FIA and the Bethlehem community promote, as well as being rightly rewarded with milkshakes and cookies afterwards.

Thanks and recognition should also go to our teachers, Ms Mansour, Ms Percy and Ms Fisher who gave up their time to accompany us to the Red Cross, donated blood and gave their encouragement when it was needed most.

Blood donations will be something FIA will definitely continue in the future, so if anyone 16 years and older is interested in participating in the donation drop by FIA meetings which are held every Tuesday recess at the BLT next term for details on the next scheduled blood donation.

Once again to our blood donors: you did us proud!

Mai and Iris



Bethlehem College—Visual Arts & TAS News



We've had a feast of art over the past few weeks at Bethlehem!

Our students were well represented in the Ashfield Council Youth Art Exhibition held in the Thirning Villa Gallery. Eighteen of our students exhibited sculptures, prints, ceramics and mixed media works demonstrating their unique talents and abilities. This was a great opportunity for Bethlehem College Art students to exhibit in a gallery space that is open to the general public. The works were of a very high standard and, judging by comments in the visitors' book, gallery visitors appreciated the time and effort that went into the making of them.

The Clancy Prize for Religious Art was held at the Australian Catholic University National Gallery in Strathfield. Bethlehem College was represented by Linda Alam and Joanne Meligonitis, of our 2008 HSC class, and by our Year 9 students with their collaborative project 'Noah's Art'. This was a very popular piece on opening night. The small pairs of colourful clay animals attracted a lot of attention.

Our Year 7 students have just completed their first Visual Arts artmaking assessment task, submitting still life drawings. The quality of the works has been very impressive and the girls have obviously put a great deal of effort into improving their skills in drawing. Next term they will have the opportunity to further refine their artmaking, extending their drawing task through an exploration of different media.

Our Year 10 Food Technology students had a feast of another kind when they visited Sydney Tower restaurant to see how a busy commercial kitchen is run. The girls were taken on a tour through the food preparation and storage areas. After the tour the students were able to have lunch at the buffet. The views were spectacular and the girls found the excursion most worthwhile on a number of levels!

Vicki Armstrong
TAS/VA Coordinator



Bethlehem College—Community News



St. Vincent's Parish, Ashfield—HOLY WEEK 2009

Holy Thursday April 9th

Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7.30pm

Good Friday April 10th

Stations of the Cross (Church & Ashfield Park): 10.00am
Polish—Stations of the Cross: 12.00 noon
Celebration of the Lord's Passion: 3.00pm

Saturday April 11th

Reconciliation: 8.00am-9.30am
RCIA: 9.30am
Polish—Easter Food Blessing: 12.00 noon
EASTER VIGIL MASS: 6.00pm

Sunday April 13th

Easter Sunday Masses: 8.00am, 10.00am and 6.00pm
Polish—Easter Sunday Mass: 12.00 noon

50th Anniversary of the Presentation Presence at Saint Patrick's College

Ex-students, former teachers and staff members of Mary Immaculate College are cordially invited to the 50th Anniversary celebration on Saturday, 2nd May 2009 of the Presentation Sisters' Presence at Saint Patrick's.

Date:	2nd May 2009
11.00am:	Mass at St. Patrick's Church, Sutherland celebrated by Bishop David Cremin
12.00noon:	Blessing and official re-opening of the MIC entrance to the College (Guests will then be entertained by the College Band while light refreshments are served by the Hospitality students)
1.00pm: for 1.30pm	Luncheon at the Sutherland United Services Club, East Parade, Sutherland

Cost: \$40.00

RSVP: 9 April 2009

For more information, booking form or ticket details, please telephone 9542 9000 or visit www.stpatscoll.nsw.edu.au
"News & Events" - "Noticeboard" or email: ppc@spcsutherland.catholic.edu.au



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.

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