



Semper Paratus

Newsletter of
James Sheahan
Catholic High School

Volume 24 Number 30
Thursday 17 September 2009

DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday 22 September
Year 7 Reflection Day

**Wednesday 23
September**
Year 9 Reflection Day

**Thursday 24
September,
Friday 25 September**
Year 10 Trial SC Exams

Tuesday 29 September
Casual Clothes Day

Friday 2 October
Year 12 Graduation
Assembly - 10.00am in the
School Hall

Year 12 Graduation Mass
St Joseph's Church
6.30pm

Last Day Term 3

Tuesday 20 October
Students return for Term 4

P&F Meeting in Kenna
Hall - 7.30pm

Thursday 22 October
HSC Exams commence

Friday 23 October
Year 7 Medieval Day

See how quietly the Great God works!

*Darkness is spread over the earth and light comes again at dawn,
yet there is never a sound of curtains being drawn or shutters being closed.*

The Venerable Catherine McAuley

Renovations

Our two oldest science laboratories have been closed and are currently being stripped of furniture, sinks, flooring, and lots more! The refurbishment of the labs has now commenced in earnest. Once complete, they will boast air-conditioning, interactive whiteboards with ceiling mounted data projectors and a covered veranda for bag storage.

Staff have started moving out of the old staff study in preparation for the refurbishment of this area in the school holidays. This area will be expanded to include natural light and air on both sides, with air-conditioning and new carpet and furniture. We are grateful to the Trustees of the Diocese for providing most of the funding for these two projects.

New carpet is being laid in classrooms on a daily basis, and this looks terrific with the newly painted walls. Our new PA system is now operational in the hall. The P&F have generously supported the purchase of this new equipment.

NAPLAN

The results for the national testing in literacy and numeracy are now available. These will be coming home with Years 7 and 9 students this week. I ask that you look at your own child's performance in the context of the national averages. If you have been reading the newspapers, you will be aware that NSW has the highest performing averages of any state in Australia. Regardless of how your child performed, the important thing is to praise the areas where the child did well, and to encourage further improvement in the areas where there are weaknesses. The ability to write and read well is imperative. Children who observe parents reading in the home are more likely to have the expectation that everyone reads – for leisure and pleasure as well as out of necessity.

The end of term

With only two weeks left of the term, our thoughts and prayers turn to our Year 12 students who are now quickly heading towards their HSC examinations. I would ask all parents to keep these students in their prayers in the lead up to the exams. The last day of this term is always a wonderful celebration and farewell for Year 12. I expect ALL students to be in attendance up until and including the last day of term so that we afford Year 12 students and their families a farewell that is fitting and proper. I ask all parents to ensure that students are in attendance during Week 10. Please do not allow students to convince you that their presence at school is optional prior to the holidays. Students get enough holidays already!

*Craig Wattam
Principal*

FUN TRYING TRADES

Last Wednesday a group of Years 9 and 10 students visited Bunnings, which was the site of the annual Try-A-Trade day organised by the Central West Group Apprentices.

Twelve trade and traineeship areas were represented, with the "tradie" at each one providing a small project for the students to undertake. Students rotated through the various trades and traineeships, not necessarily being limited to the traditional gender areas. This in itself was a great experience, but being given "special rewards" made it even better – cordless drills, saws, beanies, plants and footballs to name a few of the give-aways. The students really enjoyed the opportunities provided and are already booking a place for next year's Try-A-Trade.

*Kaye Heron
Careers Adviser*

ACADEMIC OLYMPICS

On Thursday last week Year 9 students ran an Academic Olympics for our gifted and talented students in Years 7S, 7F and 8J, 8S. The aim of the



day was to engage students in a series of challenging activities across a range of disciplines. It also encourages

teamwork as groups attempt to solve a variety of problems.

This activity is run in the spirit of an Olympic Decathlon, with events of an academic nature. Students participate in teams of six in activities related to Mathematics, English, Music, Code Breaking, Engineering, Forensics, Drama, Art, Poetry, Strategy and General Knowledge.



Students from our school competed in mixed year teams against each other and teams from other high schools and Year 6 primary school teams from within the Diocese.

The Academic Olympics gave our students an opportunity to engage with like minded students in activities that stimulated their thinking in a fun, supportive and structured environment.

Year 9 students organised and ran all the events on the day and gained an understanding of the importance of planning, preparation and teamwork when implementing an event. They were wonderful ambassadors for the school demonstrating patience and leadership in all facets of the day's activities.



*Lynelle Maguire
Gifted and Talented Coordinator*

SPORTING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Nominations are being taken for Years 7 to 11 Sporting Excellence Awards to be presented at the 2009 Presentation Night. To qualify for a Sporting Excellence Award students must have achieved honours in a sport not necessarily offered by the school and/or gained success through outside competition. The level of achievement to qualify for this award needs to be exceptional e.g. Western Region Academy of Sport, NSW Country representation or success at an elite level competition in any sport. Nomination forms for this award are available from the front office. Nomination forms must be returned to the front office by Friday October 2 to be considered.

*Greg Pell
PD/H/PE*

SOCIAL EVENING FOR YEAR 12 PARENTS AND TEACHERS

An evening for the teachers and parents of Year 12 will be held on Friday September 25th at the home of George and Fran Blackwell, 58 Casey Street, commencing at 7pm.



The evening provides the opportunity for parents of Year 12 students to acknowledge and thank the teachers for their efforts with their children over the past two years.

Year 12 teachers and their partners are warmly invited to attend.

Tania Rusden