

SCHOOL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

WEEK 8, TERM 1

WEDNESDAY, 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019

Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

#### REFLECTION ON LENT

We are now in the middle of Lent. Here is a reflection on the importance of Lent in our lives:

We miss many encounters with others in this fast-paced society. It was only by stopping that Jesus and the Samaritan woman were able to make space for one another. The woman could have chosen not to speak; so could have Jesus. The woman and Jesus could have used their business, their busyness, and their prejudices to avoid each other.

So the encounter took courage, sacrifice and an ability to stop outside of defined roles of who we think we are and others' perceptions of us. It took TIME and it was risky, in that both spoke from the heart. They gave each other the gift of emotional availability and emotional honesty that went beyond conversation to conversion for both the Samaritan woman and Jesus!

Today can we move out of our comfort zones, stereotypes and pressures of a busy day and our own self-importance? Are we open to a pilgrimage to the heart? It is significant that at the end of the encounter, the Samaritan woman leaves her water jar behind. What are we hoping to leave behind this Lent? What resentments, prejudices, fears, worries, possessions, prestige, power, shame, guilt? What needs to be emptied so as to be filled with the water of life, the refreshment of God's love that comes to us as mercy and forgiveness?

There are opportunities today for us to be both Jesus, who listens with rapt attention and the Samaritan woman who takes the plunge to tell another something of who she really is. Can we be open to an encounter of the divine kind through humankind today!

#### 2019 LEWO WORLD CUP

After the very successful 2018 Lewo World Cup, the Seniors of 2019 will run one this year. The eight teams are:

- Americas
- Australia
- Greece
- Islander
- Italy
- Lebanon
- Portugal
- Rest of the world

The winning Team will play a Staff Team in Week 11 of Term 1 to raise money for Caritas.

#### ACTION FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

Last Friday, the CBHS Lewisham Environment Group organised a rally for Climate Change as 15<sup>th</sup> March is the national date for Climate Change Protest.

Advocacy is a very Catholic action. Catholic Social Teaching (CST) challenges us to work for the dignity of all creation, to work for each person's ability to participate in the life and decision-making of our society. To amplify the voices of those unheard in our society, including the very planet we live on, itself is a Catholic response to the call of the Gospel. The Australian curriculum also emphasises participation in society and the teaching of skills that enable this, such as citizenship and ethical understanding.

The Catholic tradition tells us that advocacy in schools must be invitational, grassroots, grounded in a deep understanding of the issues, and realised through non-violent action. Once students have chosen to use their voice, it is the responsibility of the school to ensure they do so within the framework of a learning experience, supported and safe, to experience what active citizenship looks and feels like.

**GOOD NEWS STORY: Public Speaking at CBHS Lewisham**

Oskar Stubbs (Year 10), Luka Gonano (Year 8) and Gabriel Wong (Year 8) competed in the zone final of the CSDA public speaking competition at St Patrick's College last Friday evening. Luka and Gabriel are to be congratulated for getting to the elimination round for a second year in a row.

Congratulations to Oscar who will now attend the grand-final at Marist College North Shore this Friday evening.

**GOOD NEWS STORY 2: Maxwell Jones**

Congratulations to Maxwell Jones, in Year 12 Magee House who will be representing NSW in the Australian Junior Athletics Championships. He is a pole vaulter and came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the state this year. Congratulations Max

*With the guidance of Blessed Edmund Rice, may we continue to strive with strength to be of service to others. Live Jesus in our Hearts Forever.*

Yours truly,

Br Paul Conn  
Principal



**WATERFORD LEARNING CENTRE**

**READING AT CBHS**

As part of the Waterford Learning Centre mission statement, it states that we are committed to 'developing in students a love of literature and learning'. To this end we offer the following reading programs and opportunities to encourage our students to read widely. Ultimately, it is up to the individual student to read as much as they can, but our school does offer them time during wide reading (English lessons), the Waterford Readers' Club, Accelerated Reader programme for the Primary and access to our Learning Centre every day. A recent article from The Guardian (5 Mar 2019), provides evidence that 'there has been a significant decline in the number of children being read to daily and the number reading for pleasure'. Added to this is the fact that 'boys are less likely to be read to daily than girls' with more boys than girls choosing screentime over reading. Teachers constantly observe that many of our boys have not read widely enough from an early age to do their best across all subjects. Not only is reading relaxing, it is the key to better writing, general knowledge and developing an empathy towards others.

*Flood, A 2019, Give older children story time to halt fall in young readers, The Guardian, accessed 20 March 2019, <<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2019/mar/04/give-older-children-story-time-to-halt-fall-in-young-readers-urge-experts>>.*

**EDMUND RICE WIDE READING CHALLENGE (ERWRC)**

This Challenge for Years 7 to 10 encourages boys to read for enjoyment and to extend themselves through literature.

Students must read 5 books from the Challenge list for their Year group plus 5 books of their own choice to meet the basic requirements of the Challenge and earn 20 points for their House.

Students have until mid-September to complete the Edmund Rice Wide Reading Challenge for recognition at the school's Cocurricular assembly. Challenge forms and book lists are available from the Waterford Learning Centre.

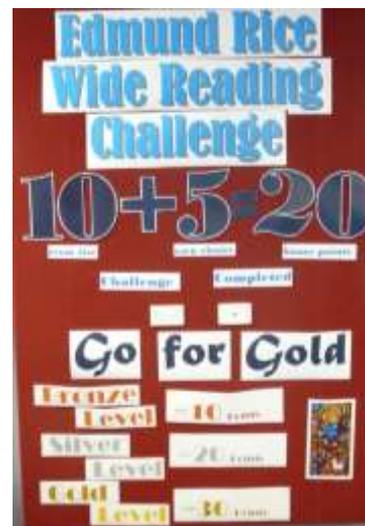
All students in Years 7 to 10 are expected to participate because, in the words of author Stephen King, "Books are a uniquely portable magic."

**ACCELERATED READER**

Accelerated Reader is a computer-based reading program. Aside from promoting deep reading skills, the program helps us monitor each Primary boy's reading level and progress throughout the year. Each student has been tested and given a reading Book Level range. The boys have also been set individual Targets. They will work toward these Target(s) over the two Semesters.

We have evidence that this programme has improved reading literacy which benefits students in all curriculum areas. It also contributes to creating a 'reading culture' at our school.

Happy reading!



Mrs Tanya Toohey, Ms Tara Howell  
Waterford Learning Centre

**HSC Minimum Standards Testing – Year 10**

All Year 10 students will complete HSC Minimum Standards Testing, which will occur at Christian Brothers' High School Lewisham, on Friday 22 March during Periods 1-3. There are three individual tests; reading, writing and numeracy, of which all students must complete all three tests. Each test will be 45 minutes in duration and delivered online. A parent letter was issued via students in Week 6, Term 1, via Homeroom, outlining the reason for the testing, required equipment that students must bring to the testing and finally, that students are to attend in full school uniform.

The NESA website has further information regarding this testing: <http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/hsc/hsc-minimum-standard/online-tests>

Please contact me, Mr David Verdejo ([david.verdejo@cbhslewisham.nsw.edu.au](mailto:david.verdejo@cbhslewisham.nsw.edu.au)) Diverse Learning Centre Coordinator, for further information of so required.

**Mr David Verdejo**  
Diverse Learning Centre Coordinator

**CSDA PUBLIC SPEAKING**

Oskar Stubbs (Year 10), Luka Gonano (Year 8) and Gabriel Wong (Year 8) competed in the zone final of the CSDA Public Speaking competition at St Patrick's College last Friday evening, where they mesmerised the audience with commanding speeches. Although not successful, Luka and Gabriel are to be congratulated for having broken through to the elimination round for a second year in a row. We look forward to hearing from them again in the future.

Speech-making legend, Oskar is enjoying his fourth successful year on the Public Speaking circuit with his latest speech on "fully automated luxury communism" catching the attention adjudicators, revolutionaries and intelligence agencies alike.

Young Mr Stubbs is headed for the grand-final at Marist College North Shore this Friday evening. Seeing is believing, so join Oskar this week at 6 pm, if you would like to find out more about his startling predictions for the fall of capitalism and the rise of a robot dominated communist utopia.

**Mr Paul McCallum**  
Public Speaking and Debating Coordinator



*Luka Gonano and Gabriel Wong*

**Save** ★ ★  
**the** ★ ★  
Blue and Gold Dinner  
FRIDAY 10 MAY  
**Date!**  
Canterbury Harbourside Park NSW, Gah

**Want to get a head start in your career  
and get your HSC?**

Southern Cross Catholic Vocational College (SCCVC) is a state-of-the-art, co-educational Catholic Secondary College for Years 11-12 students. Each student undertakes study that leads to a HSC with a focus on practical, hands-on, industry-based learning.

**Open Afternoon: Tuesday, 7 May 2019 4:00pm – 7:30pm**

5:00pm	Principal's Address
5:30pm	School-Based Apprenticeship, Traineeship, Enterprise (SBATE) Presentation – Partnerships Team
6:00pm	Parents and Ex-students Q & A
6:30pm	SBATE Presentation – Partnerships Team
7:00pm	Parents and Ex-students Q & A

Campus Tours conducted throughout the evening. Last tour at 7:15pm.  
Enrolment application packages available.

17 Comer St Burwood NSW ph.: 8372 4400 fax.: 8372 4401.  
[www.sccvc.nsw.edu.au](http://www.sccvc.nsw.edu.au)

**Confirmation at  
St Mary's Concord**

*There will be two celebrations of Confirmation on  
Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 6pm  
and*

*Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May at 6pm.*

*To register for this Sacrament please email  
[parish@stmarysconcord.org](mailto:parish@stmarysconcord.org)*

*or contact the Parish office on 9747 4210.*

*Registrations close Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April.*

## MCC SPORT REPORT

Trials for the upcoming MCC Football and Rugby League season continue this Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> March after school, rain permitting. The trials were postponed last week. All trials except Opens Football and the Year 10 Football team, who train at Arlington, will take place at Beaman Park with return transport provided. Boys will return to school at approximately 5:15pm.

Good luck to our Golf and Squash teams who compete in the MCC Championships this Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> March. The Cross Country team will compete this week and train at King George Park this week during sport, departing at the beginning of lunch.

All parents requiring information about NSW Combined Catholic College teams and events should visit the new website at [www.csss.nsw.edu.au](http://www.csss.nsw.edu.au) to download all information and entry forms. Parents should go to the "help" section after entering the NSWCCC site and then follow the registration links. Once complete, your sons will receive a once only CCC identification number which they can then use to nominate for all sports at CCC level through their school life. Please note that ALL individual entries and nominations must be done by parents of interested students via this process. Families should check the website for clarification, so your sons don't miss out.

### Term 1 Events

21 <sup>st</sup> March	MCC Golf and Squash
28 <sup>th</sup> March	MCC Cross Country
4 <sup>th</sup> April	MCC Junior CCC Cup Gala Day

David Mamo, Sports Coordinator

save  
the  
date

