Dear members of the Good Samaritan Catholic College community,

The school year is rapidly drawing to a close and I hope all of our young people are ready for the final days of the term. For those students entering year 7 next year, these final weeks of primary school are filled with finishing off work, celebrating the end of this phase of schooling and graduating from their primary school. I wish all of these young people an enjoyable last few weeks of school.

At our College, we are eagerly anticipating the handover of our facilities from the builder in late December. Furniture, books and a myriad of resources have been purchased and are awaiting delivery at the beginning of January. We anticipate moving from our pre-opening office at Marcoola to the College site in late December, with the doors opening at the College on January 7 next year.

In this last newsletter for the year, there is information about our buildings and the start of school next year, uniform and enrolment updates, resource updates and information about our teaching and learning programs. I encourage you to read through the information and share it with family and friends.

I hope all members of our community enjoy the coming school holiday break. If you are travelling, please do so safely. I wish everyone a relaxing and refreshing break as we look forward to the excitement that awaits our College in the new year.

The celebration of Christmas reminds us of the very reason we exist as a Catholic school. Our College is a place where young people will experience the love of our God and by their words and deeds, spread this love to others in our community and our world. In the ultimate act of love, our God was born into our world. At Christmas we remember this and pray for the peace and joy that was promised to us all on that first Christmas Day. While at times our world seems to move away from this ideal, we live in the hope promised to us and especially at Christmas, express that hope through our faith. I pray that the peace and joy of the infant Jesus enters all homes in our community and that all families are truly blessed this Christmas season.

God Bless,

Greg Myers
Principal
As we are unable to access the College site prior to the finalisation of the school year, we will be conducting drop in days for each year level during the week starting January 14. The purpose of these days is to allow parents and students to inspect the facilities, meet staff and get a feel for the new rooms. The days and hours for these drop in days are currently being finalised and will be communicated to families next week.

**Student Orientation Sessions**

Our Prep to Year 3 and year 7 Orientation Days were filled with eager students and even more excited teachers. It was wonderful to put a face to the names and enjoy watching friendships emerge. The children participated in a range and indoor and outdoor activities throughout the sessions. We thank the Marcoola Surf Life Saving Club and Maroochy River Golf Club for the use of their rooms for these days.

**School Dates and Hours**

School will officially commence for all students in 2019 on Wednesday, January 30. Our school hours will be 8:30am until 3pm every day with one 40 minute break and one 30 minute break during the day.

We have now finalised all of our staff for 2019 with the appointment of our school officers and groundstaff. We welcome Jenny Chesterton, Karlamanda Gault, Tracy Knox, Rosie Ballam, Susan Moore and Darryl Cook to our team of staff for the commencement of the school year. With all staff now appointed, we are ready for our young people to join us in January.
All of our buildings are now complete and are being checked for defects and undergoing a major clean prior to handover. The contractor is currently completing paths, landscaping and roadways in preparation for the end of the project. Everything is on track for the site to be handed to the College before Christmas. At present the landscapers are working hard to ensure the school looks great for the first day.

Our furniture and resources will be delivered to the site commencing on January 7 and our rooms will be well and truly ready for use before our students arrive. We are really looking forward to showing off our new facilities to families and students in the new year.
All of our classrooms are innovative and inviting spaces filled with modern furniture and fittings allowing for flexible learning opportunities to occur. A lot of research based decision making has gone into the design of our rooms and we are very happy with the results. As well, our Resource Centre, including the library, will be an inviting space for students in all year levels to work in.

In the early years, our dedicated teachers are planning focussed learning and teaching experiences along with investigations, play connected to learning, routines and transitions and real-life situations to stimulate interest, engagement and learning. The emphasis is on good quality literature and developing a love for learning. Teachers will select literature that engages and entertains while using these stories as a conduit to teach phonics, spelling and grammar in context. Lessons start by making the learning explicit to students and letting them know what success will look like before they begin tasks. Students are able to check in and see how they are going with the Success Criteria while they are engaging in the learning process.

In year 7, our expert teaching staff have been planning engaging and challenging programs of study for our students across the different learning areas – Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, Health & Physical Education, The Arts (Music / Drama / Dance), Technology (Food Technology / Design Technology) and Languages. The students will be engaged in wonderful learning opportunities, tailored to meet their abilities and extend them to the next level. As we open the College doors, the Year 7 students will be engaged in dynamic, problem-based learning. With a focus on developing personal and community identity, the students will take on a challenging problem based program of study around ‘How can our community story positively impact our society and world?’ and inquire deeply to find a pathway to make a difference, led by their expert teachers and collaboration with each other. The Year 7 students are charged with forming the Good Samaritan Catholic College culture from day 1 and will be mentored to develop skills across learning areas as well as leadership skills and personal growth skills.

Working in an innovative learning space where teamwork, technology and transformation are guiding principles, the Year 7 team of students will work to ensure they develop responses that are seen and heard in diverse ways. As a key element of their problem-based learning, the students will present their responses to the community at the end of Term 1, 2019. Having seen our 2019 Year 7 students in action at our recent orientation days, there is no doubt the students will present excellent responses to their challenges!

We look forward to sharing more about the way our classrooms will be operating at the Parent Information Nights being held early next year. Dates and times will be sent out in the new year.
Enrolment demand for our new College continues to be extremely strong. We currently have waiting lists established for Prep and Year 3, with enrolments still being received for these classes. Years 1, 2 and 7 are close to meeting our enrolment targets and we expect these classes to be full prior to the commencement of school in 2019. If our enrolled families know of anyone considering applying for enrolment in 2019, please strongly encourage them to apply online immediately.

We are also accepting online applications for enrolment in 2020 to 2023. Already, demand for Prep and Year 7 in 2020 is extremely strong and we expect demand to exceed the number of places available in these classes. Interviews and open days will be scheduled during the first term of next year for 2020 enrolment.

Boxes of books have begun to arrive, and they are being processed, ready for the shelves of our beautiful new Library! The book choices include old favourite picture books, Junior fiction series, new picture books (including big books), new and popular Young Adult novels and non-fiction books. There will be a book for everyone!

Recently, information was sent to all families regarding the provision of Kindy and Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) in 2019 at the College. Both services will be operated by Centacare in College classrooms during 2019 while construction of a purpose built facility takes place for use in 2020. Kindy will operate a 5 day fortnight program and Outside of School Hours Care will operate each day and during the school holidays. It is essential that families complete the booking forms for both services and return them to Centacare as soon as possible. The forms, as well as the handbooks for Kindy and OSHC, are available on our website.

Please visit the following websites for information on sacraments and upcoming events:

- Nambour Parish
- Stella Maris Parish

Enrolments
Parents are reminded that they need to schedule fittings for school uniforms as soon as possible. Please ensure that you book your fitting at Seaborn Clothing to ensure that your child is properly fitted out for the first day of school.

As well, the approved shoe guide has now been published in consultation with The Athlete’s Foot.

While there is no compulsion to purchase shoes here, The Athlete’s Foot has provided very competitive pricing for good quality school shoes. If you choose not to purchase shoes from The Athlete’s Foot, please ensure that the shoes purchased meet the requirements of our approved shoe guide. All formal shoes must have a defined heel and all sports shoes must be black or one of the approved styles.

Booklists are now also available online and parents are strongly encouraged to order these before December 9 to take advantage of the $3.95 home delivery service (Login Code is GSCC2258). Impact Office Supplies have provided extremely competitive pricing for our booklists and parents are encouraged to use this service. If families choose not to purchase from Impact Office Supplies, you must ensure that you purchase the exact item using the code on the list. Please do not send any item to school that is not on the list, or is not the exact item as stated. This will ensure that all children have the correct equipment to start school.

Prep Information Night

The Prep Information Night will be held on Tuesday, January 29 from 5 to 6pm in the Prep rooms. This is the evening before school begins. This will allow parents to hear about routines for the following morning and to be relaxed and informed before dropping your little ones off on the first day. Reminders will be sent home closer to the day.

School Holiday Opening Hours

The College office at Marcoola will be open until Friday December 21 during the coming school holidays. The office will re-open on Monday, January 7, at our College site on Parklakes Drive. Any changes to these times or places will be posted on Facebook and our webpage. Not all staff will be available at all times, but all your queries will be answered.