16 February 2012 – No 3
Readings: Is 43:18-19, 21-22, 24-25; 2 Cor 1:18-22; Mk 2:2-12

From The Principal
Reflection
GOSPEL: MARK 1:40-45

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: ‘If you want to’ he said ‘you can cure me.’ Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. ‘Of course I want to!’ he said. ‘Be cured!’ And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, ‘Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.’ The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

When I reflect on Mark’s gospel I reflect that Jesus reached out for the neediest in his surroundings, the people who were often rejected by his community. This is a challenge for the Hennessy community and the reason we challenge our students to reach out in our community and undertake community service.

Opening School Mass
The Opening School Mass is always a special occasion as we formally welcome the new members to our community and acknowledge the elected student representatives. The Hennessy community is growing in so many ways, we are certainly getting bigger, but we are also growing as a faith community, we are growing as a College that challenges students to dream and most importantly we are growing as an accepting community where everyone counts.

I really value that each new student that enters Hennessy (7-10) is given a bible. A gift we hope the students will cherish and seek wisdom and guidance

Information Evening
It is a special time of the year as we facilitate information evenings for parents. This form of communication is a vital means for the College to communicate with our parents, so that we are all heading in the one direction.

I wish to acknowledge the staff at Hennessy for their dedication and willingness to give freely of their time in attending the sessions we provide for parents.

Student / Parent / Teacher Conferences
This year we will be trialling a new model to communicate student achievement. On the Thursday 8th March we have allocated a full day (8am to 6.00pm) to the process of communicating with students and parents.

This year all students will complete a self-evaluation report that they will bring to the conferences.

When meeting with a staff member the students will be asked three questions
  • What have you done well?
  • What do you need to improve?
  • What are you going to do about it?

This formative process focuses on the student and their progress and will allow all parties to plan for the upcoming year.

On this day – no classes will be conducted. Students will come to the conferences with their parents (dressed in full school uniform). The library will be available for study
Swimming Carnival
Congratulations to all our fabulous students and staff who make this day such an enjoyable event. The manner in which the students conducted themselves was exemplary, participating in events and cheering for their mates. At Hennessy we have a culture of ‘having a go’!!!

Retreat Program
I mentioned earlier that we are growing as a faith community and the retreat program is one small component of this growth. This term we have retreats for Year 7, 10, 11 and 12.

I look forward to the students immersing themselves into these days and allow themselves to grow closer to their God and each other.

Dr Peter Webster
Principal

Dates For Your Diary:
Wednesday 22nd February – Ash Wednesday
Thursday 23rd February – Archdiocesan Swimming – Yass
Wednesday 29th – Community Council Meeting
Thursday 8th March – Pupil Free Day
Thursday 8th March – Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews

They are located at 2c Campbell Street, Young.
Phone 6382 6328; E-mail Naomi.P@youngnc.org.au

Facebook
Modern ICT communications are an effective way of communicating and sharing information. It is important to remember that what you write, and the images you place on Facebook remain in cyberspace for all to see, and what you have on it reflects upon you.

It is not appropriate to use this resource for the purpose of causing distress to others, or to threaten the well-being of others. Before you type think what you would feel if you read it about you and would you do that if the person was right in front of you.

Parent/ Teacher/ Student Interviews Day
Please note that Thursday 8th March is Parent Teacher Student interviews. They will be running during the day from 8am to 6pm and students are only required to be at school for the times of their interview. There will be no classes on the day but the library will be open for study only during the day.

Parent Information Evenings
Thank you to the parents who took the opportunity to attend our recent year 7 and year 11 information evenings. Assessment schedules were discussed and there was an opportunity to meet with teachers. Thank you to Mr Mitchell and Mrs Hibbert for organising these information evenings and to staff who attended.

Gerard Simms
Assistant Principal Administration and Welfare

Welfare:

Ash Wednesday Mass
The beginning of Lent is marked by Ash Wednesday with a school mass being held next Wednesday 22rd February, 2012. As such students are required to wear their complete summer school uniform and if they have sport or double PE on the day they are to bring their PE uniform and change into it for those lessons.

Young and District Community Hub
An informal space where people can go to obtain information, referrals and support for families and individuals to connect to services in the community. They offer a range of services including:
Family support, parent education and support network, young carers group, parenting programs, special needs assistance.

Science News:

Professor Frink Science Quiz 2012" - Each week there will be a science question put into the newsletter. The first person who gets to the science department and tells Mr Boshier the correct answer will win a freddo! The person who answers the most correctly through the year will win the coveted 2012 Professor Frink trophy. Don't run!

Week 4 - What is the only major planet of the solar system that takes its English name from Greek mythology?
As we start Lent this Wednesday, what can school parents do as their Lenten discipline?  
Answer: familiarise themselves with the Government debate on Catholic Education.

Next Monday the Australian Government will release its report of the Gonski Review of Funding for schooling. This report is the first step towards the Government’s plan to introduce a new funding system for Australian schools from 2014.

Parents should take note of the recommendations of this report and remain vigilant of the school funding policies that will be framed by the Government and Opposition in the weeks that follow.

Some key facts about school funding are that while Catholic schools educate 1 in 5 Australian children, on average they operate with 10% less recurrent income than government schools, even when parent contributions are taken into account.

In terms of government funding only, Catholic schools receive just 73% of the annual recurrent government funding (per student) received by government schools. Catholic schools receive $7,708 per student annually while government schools receive $10,562. (My School website 2011)

The school funding debate should not be reduced to an 'us' or 'them' argument but the success of Australia’s education system relies on children in all schooling sectors - Government, Catholic and Independent - receiving fair and equitable government support. Fair and equitable government support for Catholic schools guarantees real parental choice in education. Catholic education authorities are seeking a modest increase in funding that will assist Catholic schools to build on their capacity to provide high quality education while keeping school fees as low as possible and striving to address educational disadvantage.

It is vital that Catholic school community members are well informed of the facts about school funding to enable them to constructively participate in the discussions that will follow the release of the Gonski report.

Parents are encouraged to visit the National Catholic Education Commission’s website set up especially to provide information about Catholic school funding at: www.fundinginfo.catholic.edu.au

Fr Richard

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**Mathematics Report:**

Welcome back to 2012 from the Mathematics department. Thank you to all the students who have returned textbooks from last year.

Year Seven students will receive their school calculator during this week. I encourage parents to ensure their student’s name is on it. Any other student who has ‘misplaced’ their calculator over the holidays, school calculators are available from the College office for $15.

Assessment tasks approaching:

* Year 7 – Week 9 – In class test on Integers, Fractions and Decimals
* Year 8 – Week 7 – In class test on Fractions, Decimals and Percentages
* Year 9 – Week 8 – In class test on Algebraic Expressions
* Year 10 – Week 5 – Data Assignment
* Years 11 & 12 are to check their assessment schedules

Once again this year, Maths study will be available to all students every Tuesday at lunchtime in A2. I encourage any student who would like assistance with the maths skills or homework to come along.

Ms C Carberry
Mathematics Coordinator