



# ST SAVIOUR'S COLLEGE

*Dream... Embrace... Become...*

19 March 2009

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### Lenten Reflection



*Keeping  
a Holy Lent*

Last Sunday the Gospel (John 2:25) focused on the story of when Jesus drove out the merchants from the Temple. The Gospel provides the detail that Jesus' complaint against the merchants is that they are making the Temple "a marketplace". That is, they are

failing to respect the holiness of the Temple by treating it like any other space.

The Temple was God's house and that's the purpose for which it was to be used. It was not a marketplace or a bank. To see it used as such, brought out the passionate devotion Jesus had for his Father's house. And with all he had, Jesus wanted to protect it.

The Gospel challenges us to think of places where you know injustices occur and to reflect on how these areas are similar to the experience Jesus had walking into the Temple and seeing it misused.

*Jesus, you were usually forgiving and encouraging,  
but your anger was reserved for those  
who profited at the expense of the poor  
or those who made 'nit-picking' laws  
which made life difficult for them.*

*Help us this week,*

*to see in our hearts what you see in them.*

*Give us wisdom to know what to be forgiving of,  
and what to be angry and do something about.*

### Thank you

• To parents, family members and students who were able to join us for our International Women's Day Celebrations. Our guest speaker for our breakfast meeting, Mrs Cecilia Anderson, shared with the group her reflections on her ministry work in Africa. Congratulations to our student leaders for their efforts for our day of celebration.

• To all who were able to join us for our fund raising appeal for the Victorian Bushfire Victims. Once again, our student leaders, with the support of Mrs Wuersching and Mrs Creedon are to be congratulated. Special thanks is extended



*...where the sky is her limit!*

to Rick Carlsson of Icon Cinemas and Mr David Wuersching for their support of this appeal.

Last week we took the opportunity to formally acknowledge the efforts of a long standing member of McAuley House. Mrs Wilkes has had strong connections with the College since 1990 when she worked in promoting and supporting the efforts of our Parent and Friends Association. Many families would recall the commitment and efforts Mrs Wilkes and her committee gave to the organisation of the Year 12 Graduation. Among the legacies that give testament to Mrs Wilkes' efforts are our courtyard in front of the library and her efforts towards helping with the design of the Callaghan Centre.



Mrs Wilkes will be especially remembered by many boarders for the care she offered our boarders since 1999. We wish Mrs Wilkes the best for her next stage of her life journey and thank her for all ongoing commitment to St Saviour's.

God Bless

*Mrs Margaret Battle*

**Courage doesn't always roar.  
Sometimes courage is the quiet  
voice at the end of the day  
saying, I will try again tomorrow.  
Mary Anne Radmacher**

### Date Claimers

26 March	Toowoomba Show Holiday
2 April	Easter Liturgy 9am
	Term 1 concludes 3pm
20 April	Parent/teacher/student interviews
21 April	Term 2 commences
4 May	Labour Day Holiday
8 May	Catherine McAuley Day
29 May	Dance Night 6pm

## PASTORAL CARE

The last few weeks have been extremely busy with staff engaged in a variety of activities to ensure the Sprit lives!

### International Women's Day

The energy that was present on Friday 6 March suggests that we are indeed educating women who are waiting to change the world. There was a celebration of the advances in Queensland over the past 150 years as well as an understanding that there is still a long way to go on an international scale.

### Year 9 Pastoral Care Activities

Year 9 students face a particularly difficult time of transition so we have organised a number of activities to help them to identify the choices they need to make in order to become their best selves. One activity was run by AYDP and focussed on avoiding Win/Lose situations in order to pursue Win/Win opportunities. Through a series of activities based on the game, Jenga, students were encouraged to work with (rather than against) others, to appreciate the effect of combined energy rather than competing interests.

Ms Lexie McGregor reports on the second activity: All Year 9 students recently attended a full day workshop at the Police Citizens Youth Club, entitled "Love Bites". The workshop dealt with the issue of healthy relationships including the components of a healthy relationship, strategies to build self esteem, how to

recognize the danger signals in relationships and where to go for help if needed. The presenters also focused on violence against women and covered many topics including domestic and family violence, date rape and other forms of sexual assault. In the afternoon students attended either a music or art workshop where they were given the opportunity to creatively



revisit all they had learned from this informative and worthwhile day.

My thanks to all who entered into the spirit of these initiatives and particularly to Mrs Bernedette Gray who organised both.

### Social Justice Leadership

I was pleased to accompany a number of our appointed leaders to St Ursula's College recently to attend a combined schools' leadership workshop. The focus of the workshop was social justice and the key presenter was the diocesan social justice educator, Sr Sue Flood. Sr Sue's message was that social justice needs to be reflected in our schools in both structures and service. Students were encouraged to examine their own communities, asking if there are structures that appear to benefit some members of the community at the expense of others. They were then challenged to share ideas about community service. I look forward to seeing the results of the students' participation.

### Poor Choices

Unfortunately there are a number of students who are letting themselves down with some of the choices they are making. The dreaded "gossip" often leads students to making choices about behaviour that are not based on reality but rather on skewed perception. Please encourage your daughters to refrain from spreading stories, to try to keep things in perspective and to make decisions about where things fall on the catastrophe scale.

### St Patrick's Day

Thanks to McAuley House for their leadership on St Patrick's Day. It was great to see the flood of green, celebrating the wonderful Irish heritage of the Sisters of Mercy.

### Easter Liturgy

Easter is the central feast of the Christian calendar and we will celebrate this important aspect of our faith in a liturgy in the Callaghan Centre at 9am on the final day of Term 1. Families would be most welcome.

*Mr John Clarke  
Deputy Principal*

## LEARNING AND TEACHING

### Parent/teacher/student interviews: Monday April 20

As per the letter received recently, the process for making appointments with teachers has changed for the upcoming parent/teacher/student interviews. On Friday of this week your daughter will receive an **Interview Request Form**. Please complete the sections of the form indicating your contact details and the subjects for which you request an appointment.



Following this (over the last two weeks of Term 1), your daughter is to consult with her teachers to make appointments. This will then become **your record of the interview times**. Please encourage your daughter to be proactive in making interview times.

### The College Assessment Policy

A copy of this policy is included in your daughter's Student Daily Planner. Recently the Curriculum team has reviewed this policy and refined it in the following manner:

- Junior assessment does not specifically require a draft of assignments, but this is encouraged.
- Senior assessment does require a draft, due no more than 7 days prior to the final copy. **Medical certificates** are required for students who do NOT adhere to the timelines for assessment in the senior school.

Students who do not have a draft to submit will be required to complete as much of the assessment in the class time of the drafting due date. Following this event, teachers will intervene in order to avoid cases of **LATE or NON-SUBMISSION** of assessment. This may involve one or all of the following strategies:

- Individual interview with student to devise a strategy/ies to complete assessment between the draft due date and the final due date.
- Students may be referred to their Homeclass teacher to offer support or referred to the Head of Department so that they may intervene and discuss the task with the student.
- Staff will inform parent that the student has not submitted an acceptable draft and is in danger of not completing the assessment on the final due date. This will be by telephone or a note in the Student Planner, that the student must get a parent to sign.



For senior assessment, in particular, judgements about students can be made by teachers as their students undertake the requirements of the assessment instrument. Teaching staff are able to collect evidence about student achievement in a continual process throughout the teaching, learning and assessment program. Therefore observation notes, rehearsal notes or checklists may be used in the assessment program.

**A non-submission of assessment** in the Senior school will be considered as an incomplete folio of student work in that subject and there will be a decision made by teacher and Head of Department as to whether the student can receive a level of achievement based on the evidence of work. Consideration will be given to determine the **number of semesters of credit** that will be granted for a level of achievement. That is, the student at the end of Year 12 may only be given 1, 2, or 3 semesters' credit rather than 4 semesters in a subject where a non-submission has occurred. This could result in the student **no longer being eligible for Tertiary entrance** (For an OP, eligibility requires 20 semester units with three subjects studied continuously for 4 semesters over the two senior years) or for the **Queensland Certificate of Education** (a QCE). Therefore it is vital that students do complete the assessment as required by the College work programs in senior subjects.

### Queensland Studies Authority Policy for Special Consideration for Authority and Authority-Registered subjects

For students who have a disability or those with English as their second language, there is special provision when completing assessment in the senior school. Special provision is the positive act of making reasonable adjustment to assessment requirements and conditions to ensure that assessment is equitable for all students. We must strive to identify and minimise barriers. This may take the form of assistance with the interpretation and comprehension of assessment items or providing an alternative essay question, in consultation with student, that allows them to demonstrate knowledge and skills in a subject by applying it to their own cultural context.

*Mrs Kathryn Janovsky  
Assistant Principal Curriculum*

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

St Saviour's College celebrated International Women's Day with a breakfast for daughters and mothers, a special Assembly and lunchtime Fashion Parade. As part of the celebrations, students dressed up in the colours of the day; purple, green and white or designed an outfit to suit the theme, Women of Queensland. Money raised from the day went to a local women's shelter. There were plenty of Anna Blighs, but the highlight was Lady Flo Bjelke Petersen complete with pumpkin scones and a signed recipe book. At the Assembly the students were treated to a dance by some of the Sudanese students as well as the Year Eight Dance Troupe.



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As part of the English Department's enrichment program, each year level attends one major excursion during the year. Our year eight students will be attending Somerset Celebration of Literature at Mudgeeraba on the Gold Coast this Friday. This is the 16th Somerset Celebration of Literature and it is one of Australia's most innovative literature events. Students have been asked to be at the College by 7.15am and will return by 5.00pm. We look forward to this excellent day where authors, journalists, cartoonists and poets from all over Australia meet to mingle with students and share their expertise.

*Mrs Linda Creedon  
Assistant Principal  
Community Development*

## CORES

### Community Response to Eliminating Suicide

Parents and Friends of the Toowoomba Diocese are invited to a one day course on

#### SUICIDE INTERVENTION

This one day course provides participants with an introduction to the topic of suicide, including the myths and facts that surround the behaviours of a person contemplating suicide.

30 & 31 March 8:30am - 4:00pm

Further details contact Paul Lynch, Toowoomba Diocesan P&F Federation

pblynch@bigpond.com.au or 0439 782 877

## McAULEY RESIDENTIAL HOUSE

It's hard to believe that we are nearly through Term 1. McAuley House has welcomed 33 new families into 2009, and we are blessed to have such wonderful families join our McAuley community.

The term has been a busy one, with the new girls becoming accustomed to our residential lifestyle, some changes to our staff and our hectic recreation schedule. We have farewelled a long standing staff member, Mrs Wilkes, from a permanent capacity but look forward to her continual assistance in a casual capacity and have welcomed Ms Lewis into the role of Senior Supervisor.

Our girls have participated in many activities this term including Ten Pin Bowling, Valentines Day, Games Nights, Scrapbooking and much more. I would encourage parents to take a look at our website for a more comprehensive look at pictures and activity reports.



This year we will celebrate and learn about our diverse range of cultures that our girls represent from Indigenous, Papua New Guinean, Russian and German. This diversity gives our girls a wonderful opportunity to learn about and live with different cultures. From next term we will explore these

cultures through theme nights.

Our theme for our end of term dinner has been decided – MEXICO! Our girls will research the customs, traditions and dress of people from Mexico. We will be dressing up for the occasion and will be treated to culinary delights such as tacos, burritos, tortillas, and chocolate nachos....YUM!!! We will conclude the night with knocking the stuffing out of a piniata.

It's enlightening to see some of our girls volunteering for community service at St Vincent De Paul. St Vincent De Paul have welcomed their interest and assistance.

We are looking forward to a busy Term 2. I would encourage parents / carers to visit the website to keep informed on the McAuley happenings.

*Ms Corrina Alchin  
Director of Boarding*

## PRACTICAL ARTS

The Practical Arts Department welcomes 3 new staff members to its ranks for 2009: Miss Talia O'Callaghan in the areas of Home Economics and Physical Education, Mr Randall Gibbens in Physical Education and Mrs Barbara Wuerschling in Home Economics. With such a great group of staff joining the department, we look forward to an exciting year.

All classes are now well underway for Term 1 with the junior students enjoying the benefits of remaining in the same subject for a full semester allowing a greater depth of teaching and learning to take place. But with teaching and learning comes inevitable assessment and with many assignments and exams now looming it is important that students are managing their time effectively and using some of their understanding of the links between health and exercise to alleviate some of the stress they may be under by doing a small amount of exercise each day.

Highlights for the department so far this year include the Year 12 PE class 'Spectacle Volleyball Match' which was held in the Callaghan Centre during a lunch break last week. The students were required to implement their understanding of sport psychology techniques to fight off nerves and perform to a high standard amidst loud music, cheering and at times unsupportive feedback. This was well supported by the student body with a request for a follow up performance to be held each term which we are looking into.

*Mrs Kate Russell  
Head of Department*

*Dream... Embrace... Become...*

# CYBERBULLYING

A common attribute of our younger generation is their natural adaptability to new technologies. They enjoy both the creative and educational advantages of different technologies enabling them to explore and enjoy the benefits of new and creative ways of learning. Unfortunately, experience is revealing that there are many potential risks to the well being of our youth associated with these new technologies. Included in these risks is what is termed Cyber bullying. A second at the keypad can cause long-lasting damage.

## What is cyber bullying?

It happens when kids use their phones or the Internet to create and send harassing or humiliating messages and images. Nasty comments, lies, and embarrassing photos, videos, and polls can be spread widely through instant messaging (IM) or phone texting, and by posts on social networking sites. It can happen anytime – at school or home – and can involve large groups of kids. The combination of the boldness created by being anonymous and the desire to be seen as “cool” can cause a kid who normally wouldn’t say anything mean face-to-face to show off for other kids.

## Why it matters

Nothing crushes kids’ self-confidence faster than humiliation. And just imagine a public humiliation sent instantly to everyone they know. Sadly, hurtful information posted on the Internet is extremely difficult to prevent or remove, and millions of people can see it. Most cyber bullying happens when adults aren’t around, so parents and teachers often see only the depression or anxiety that results from being hurt or bullied. This emotional damage can last a lifetime.

## What you should do if you are concerned

- Monitor your daughter’s use. See what they’re posting, check their mobile messages.
- Tell your daughter what to do if they’re harassed.
- They shouldn’t respond or retaliate, they should block bullies immediately, and they should tell you or an adult they trust. They shouldn’t delete the messages because in persistent cases, the content should be reported to the Internet Service Provider or, where necessary, the police.
- If your daughter is doing the bullying, establish strict consequences and remain firm in your decision regarding consequences. Note this would include mean or inappropriate comments about teachers, friends, and relatives.
- Remind them that all private information can be made public. Posts on friends’ walls, private Instant Messaging, intimate photos, little in-jokes can all be cut, pasted, and sent around. If they don’t want the world to see it, they should not post or send it.
- Discuss with your daughter the need to think before they post any information. Remind them that anything they post can be misused by someone else.
- Remind them that it is inappropriate to post staff photos or comments about staff on the internet.
- Remind them they aren’t too old to ask for your help. There are things some teenagers can handle on their own, but sometimes, they just need help. Coming to their parents isn’t baby-ish, it’s safe.

Please contact the College - 07 46371600

Arrange a meeting with the College Counsellor

*Adapted from information located at: <http://www.common sense media.org>*

## HOUSE REPORT - GORETTI

Goretti is off to a fun start this year and term one is almost over. The Goretti Grannies and Girls performed very well at the swimming carnival with a close second place. Thanks to all the Goretti girls and staff who supported the house by cheering and dressing up to show off their Goretti pride. We also had several successful swimmers compete in TSSS swimming.



Goretti participated in the pancake relays on Shrove Tuesday with great enthusiasm. We weren’t able to beat M1 but the red pancakes were easier to find in the grass when dropped. Thanks to Mrs Gray for cheering us on by banging on the frying pan; our ears are still ringing. The Goretti girls showed their true spirit on International Women’s Day with a colourful array of costumes and characters.

Our house has been having a lot of fun this term celebrating but we haven’t forgotten our commitment to our other values. Goretti is focussing

on Justice this year and are busy planning a fundraising concert to assist in promoting gender equality and empowering women.

The year is off to a good start and there’s no doubt it will continue throughout the rest of it. Show your Goretti pride by helping out and stepping up.

*Sarah and Bree*

## ENVIRONMENTAL CIRCLE

On Friday, 27 February, the St Saviour’s students participated in the school’s Clean Up Australia Day. Each of four houses was sent to different areas in and surrounding the school. I would like to thank all the girls for participating and showing a great deal of energy and enthusiasm. A large amount of rubbish was collected throughout the afternoon by each of the houses, helping us do our part for the environment.



Currently, the Environment Circle is looking to help stop the cutting down of the Upper Florentine Valley in Tasmania. Throughout 2009, we are planning to raise awareness and funds for many organisations such as the RSPCA. We are also planning to participate in activities such as World Environment Day, World Plant a Tree Day and Save the Koala month.

The Environmental Circle received a great amount of support at the Circle sign up day with a lot of girls eager to join and help their environment. With the support of the Environmental Circle, I am confident that we will achieve all our goals and aims for 2009.

*Daneka Selman  
Circle Leader*

### **Uniform Shop Opening Hours Update**

Thursday 2 April - 8.00am - 10:00am

Closed for Easter Holidays

Reopening Monday 20 April 8:00am - 10:30am

## CAREERS

Hello and welcome to the school year for 2009. My name is Laura Anderson and I am the Careers Coordinator at St Saviour's College. I am one of those fortunate people who have been able to make my vocation my vacation. I love my role within the College and really enjoy being able to assist students in exploring career pathways that match their personality, their skills and abilities and their passions. My role as the Careers Coordinator involves a combination of coordinating events such as the University Roadshow that was held at the College on Wednesday 18 February and excursions; organising a range of guest speakers; planning and facilitating a career education program for our Year 8 to 10 students; coordinating and teaching career tutorials to Year 11 and 12 students and providing individual careers counselling to students.



Another part of my role is to coordinate/implement some of our vocational programs which are available to students in addition to the programs available at the College. These include:

- School Based Apprenticeships/Traineeships
- School related TAFE Program
- Industry Placement & Work Experience

In addition, I support students with their transition into further education or employment. For example this could include

- resume support
- interview preparation
- assistance obtaining work experience
- exploring career/vocational pathways
- enrolment to TAFE or private colleges
- apprenticeship/traineeship information



An important facet of my job is to ensure that important careers-related information reaches students. This is done via the Careers Room, the newsletter, the Careers Noticeboard, daily notices and group emails and of course the College website. I encourage all students to ensure that they use these resources – take the time to visit the Careers Room on a regular basis and to at least check the Careers Noticeboard, (just outside the Careers Office), be sure to read the daily notices, and make an appointment to see me for some guidance. If students and/or parents would like to see me individually, you can make an appointment either in person or via email.

Many senior students are already making appointments for careers sessions to cement their options for 2010. I congratulate them on their desire to do well and I look forward to helping them develop a transition plan that works for each of them.

We are also very busy with our School Based Apprenticeship program. There have been several vacancies already this year and these have ranged from Business Administration, Hairdressing and Allied Health. We have had a number of students apply for these positions and are very pleased to announce that a number of our students have been successful. We wish these students every success and congratulate them on their achievements.

All Year 11 students will be interviewed this term to ensure that they have a plan for their studies for Years 11 and 12. I look forward to meeting with all of them and working through their Senior Education Training Plans that were completed last year.

Year 10 students are beginning their career pathway journey this Semester. Each student is engaged in a unit that will culminate with the completion of their own Senior Education Training Plan that will assist their journey from Year 10 to Year 11 and make this sometimes difficult transition easier.

Year 9 students are also beginning their career journey. This semester all Year 9s will participate in a unit called "The Real Game". This unit offers students an opportunity to explore different occupations, learn about income and budgeting, employability skills and education pathways relevant to different professions.

As with previous years the careers room is open to all students during morning tea and lunch and all parents are invited to arrange an appointment to visit the careers room and discuss options for their daughter.

Year 12 students only can make appointments during class time. To leave class, however, Year 12 students must have an out-of-class appointment slip signed by me. In order to get this you need to make an appointment time with me either personally or via email.

My email address: [andersl@stsav.qld.edu.au](mailto:andersl@stsav.qld.edu.au)

Finally, I would like to invite any parent who may be interested in learning more about how to employ a School Based Trainee within their business or someone they know to please pass these details on to the College. We are always interested in making stronger links for our students through the parent network.

**Australian Catholic University** has sent hardcopies of their latest prospectus. This booklet was requested by a number of students after the recent University Roadshow. A number of students were particularly interested in the Communities and Social Justice Degree being offered through ACU. If you are interested in exploring study options through ACU please feel free to borrow resources from the careers room or alternatively you can visit their website at [www.acu.edu.au](http://www.acu.edu.au)

Students who are still studying don't have to miss out on their overseas experience! They can access **Education First** or are welcome to apply for a position on the **Borneo World Challenge Experience** that will be happening in November this year. A number of students have elected to take the challenge and spend a month in Borneo where they will be involved in a community project. There is a cost associated with this expedition but students are able to fundraise to assist with these costs. For more information you can visit

[www.worldchallenge.com.au](http://www.worldchallenge.com.au)

If your daughter is currently studying Year 12 and is considering a GAP year there are plenty of options available. There is literature from the following programs available in the careers room:

•Cultural Care Au Pair  
[www.culturalcare.com.au](http://www.culturalcare.com.au)

•Education First  
[www.ef.com/highschool](http://www.ef.com/highschool)

•Intercontinental Hotels Group  
[www.ihg.com](http://www.ihg.com)  
then click careers

•Latitude  
[www.latitude.org.au](http://www.latitude.org.au)

## CULTURAL CIRCLE

Welcome back to another great year in the Cultural Circle. We started the year off with our first meeting which was held on Tuesday 3 March. Together with the girls we discussed our goals and that we wanted to achieve within the year.

The two main goals we decided were:

1. To promote the Arts throughout the College
2. And To Have Fun!

For this semester we have decided on two main events. The first is a talent contest where any of the students can display their talents in the drama, music or dance. Our other event for the semester is to get performing artists from within the community to display their talents at lunch times within the College.

As a circle we have already achieved one of these events. On Monday 9 March we had a band called "52 flicks" come and perform for us at lunch time. They put on a great performance and the girls showed great enthusiasm in watching them perform. Thank you to Miss Scott for making this event happen.

*Casey Hollywood  
Cultural Circle Leader*

## SPORT & RECREATION CIRCLE

Throughout our College the sport for 2009 has been running smoothly and there are a lot of girls showing their participation and enthusiasm. We entered three teams into the Friday night basketball competition and they all did an outstanding job and the cheering and support has been incredible. The competition has been running successfully for six weeks and it is a shame that it is finished for this year. Thankyou to all the girls that participated and the staff that helped organise this event. Final results for the College in Pool A was U13 finished third, U15s finished fourth and the Opens finished fourth.

On Tuesday 3 March a number of students represented St Saviour's College in the TSSSA swimming carnival held at Milne Bay. All girls showed great sportsmanship and tried their hardest in everything they swam in. An excellent effort from Amy-Lee Bosworth who swam in nearly all events and placed in many of these.

Finally, Cross Country is now coming up very quickly (first Wednesday back after the holidays) and will be here sooner than you think. So I encourage everyone to start training hard so you can all finish the race, without puffing too much!

Great work to all the girls who are participating in sport throughout the College: it's great to see so much enthusiasm as well!!!

*Hayley Scarlett  
Circle Leader*

## Towards the State Election 2009

With the election date now confirmed, the Queensland Catholic Education Commission and Parents and Friends Federation have written to State political party leaders seeking formal responses to a series of policy requests.

On behalf of the Catholic education community they have called on the next government of Queensland to:

1. Commit to working in partnership and consulting with the Catholic sector early in the process of policy development for the benefit of all Queensland children.
2. Increase the 'basket-nexus' recurrent funding rate for the Catholic sector by 1% each year for the next three years. In the first year this would represent an increase of just \$86 per student and require a government commitment of around \$10.7million.
3. Deliver increased support to Catholic schools to utilise Information and Communications Technologies in teaching and learning by:
  - a) providing \$5.8 million to release all teachers in Queensland Catholic schools for two days of professional learning to improve their capacity to use technology in the classroom.
  - b) providing \$3.6 million (\$27 per student/teacher/per annum) to provide full access for Catholic school students and teachers to the 'Learning Place' - a repository of online and digital learning resources directly aligned with the Queensland curriculum that has been developed by Education Queensland.
4. Provide \$8.7 million (cost of three days release time per teacher) to recognise the high cost of releasing teachers to develop, workshop and trial new curriculum materials and teaching methods.

While recognising that the state budget situation has tightened due to economic circumstances, our political leaders are asked to make the education of all Queensland students a high priority.

We believe these requests are modest and reasonable in support of the 288 Catholic schools that educate more than 128,000 or about 17 % of all Queensland children.

In reply to requests by the Queensland Catholic Education Commission and Federation of Parents and Friends Associations on behalf of Queensland Catholic school communities, the following responses have been received from Premier Anna Bligh and Opposition Leader Lawrence Springborg.

### Queensland Labor

The Premier has reminded the Catholic sector that Queensland currently funds non-state schools at a higher rate than any other State Government. She says the global economic crisis means we have to deal with the reality that the world is facing almost unprecedented economic turbulence and Queensland is not immune. The Premier has given most careful consideration to our request. She believes Mr Springborg has promised funds that don't exist and will not match the economic recklessness of the LNP and make promises she cannot keep. She says if re-elected however, the Labor government will commit to a \$50 million program in 2010/11 to build new schools or extend existing school facilities to cater specifically for young people disengaged from mainstream schools. There are seven such special assistance schools (the majority conducted by Edmund Rice Education) within Catholic education in Queensland that could benefit directly from funding under this program. The Premier says she will also cut red tape to fast-track the delivery of all non-state school infrastructure and specifically, the new buildings and upgrades under the Federal Government's Building the Education Revolution initiative. These promises are real measures that my Government will deliver if re-elected Premier Bligh says.

### Liberal National Party

LNP Leader Lawrence Springborg says Catholic schools, like the state school sector, have faced rising costs but funding under the eleven-year old Labor Government had virtually stagnated. He says under an LNP Government, Independent and Catholic schools will receive an extra \$136 million over four years to assist with day to day school expenses. The Catholic sector could expect to receive around \$19 million next financial year and about \$76 million over the four years as its share of these funds.

Mr Springborg says the LNP firmly believes education is the best long term economic policy and is committed to enhancing our education system, both State and non-State. He says the non-State sector is a valuable part of our education system, and offers parents a choice so it is vital this sector receives support from the State Government. Mr Springborg said Catholic schools would also benefit from the LNP's plan to establish Teacher's Advancement Teams, to be created in Queensland to support and update teachers. Eighty staff from around the state would be dedicated to the team, visiting schools in each region to provide central support for lesson planning, as well as updating teachers and principals on new technology and curriculum matters.

To read the complete response statements please visit [www.qcec.qld.catholic.edu.au](http://www.qcec.qld.catholic.edu.au) or [www.pandf.org.au](http://www.pandf.org.au). Follow the State Election 08/09 links.