Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to 2015!

The beginning of the school year is always an exciting time as teachers and students settle in to new classrooms, new routines and new groupings. It has been a smooth and calm start to the year due I am sure to the time and effort spent by the teachers in preparation.

We are very excited to be introducing an additional communication format as we take on SKOOLBAG. Please see instructions on the flyer attached. It provides the school with a tool for communicating instantly. I do hope that many parents take up the opportunity to engage with the school through this tool. We will continue to produce the weekly newsletter (Tuesdays) and ensure that all notes sent home are available on the website. The website calendar is continually updated and current. We will also continue to use our Twitter account. We have also developed a draft Communication Policy which is attached to this newsletter for your information. I would welcome your feedback in regards to this policy.

Over the last few years we have been working very hard to enhance our teaching of effective spelling strategies to our students. This has included professional development for teachers, workshops for parents and our move from the weekly class spelling list. Following much thought, discussion and research we have decided to trial the introduction of a school wide spelling text. Sound Waves is a well-scaffolded program that ensures a consistent approach to spelling across the whole school. The text includes a list of words that are required to complete the activities it is not intended that students will learn the words, students will still create their own spelling lists.

This year the teachers will participate in a series of nine 90 minute workshops during school time. This structured professional development program aims to enhance pedagogy with a focus on strengthening teachers' knowledge and use of using assessment for learning. The first workshops will be next Monday. Relief teachers will be in classes for 90 minute sessions.

Accelerated Reader is being introduced for students from Years 4-6. Accelerated Reader is an online tool that motivates students to read more often, with a focus on comprehension and at a level that is appropriate to them. It’s not a gimmick or a quick fix and it’s certainly not a substitute for teaching. Rather, it is a tool that schools use as part of their literacy program to extend students to their maximum reading potential.

Last Saturday night most staff attended Mass at St Raphael’s Church. Father Troy on behalf of the parish community commissioned us as we begin another year of ministry within the parish. We were blessed and affirmed in our work of bringing Jesus to all the students in our care.

I am excited about working with staff, students and families this year.

May you recognise the God moments in your life,

Claire Frazer
Principal
From the Principal......

PRAYERS: We hold in our hearts and prayers Gwen Bell and her family. We continue to pray for Anne Jochimsen and other members of our community who are sick. Our condolences to Tom Grant (5 White) and family on the death of his grandfather.

CONGRATULATIONS: Ben and Bridget Mockler on the birth of their daughter Ava Yvette, a little sister for Owen.

SKOOLBAG: Please see the separate flyer.

MORNING ASSEMBLIES: It is wonderful to have so many parents, carers and friends joining us for our assembly each morning. Our morning assemblies are a very important part of our day as we come together to pray, celebrate birthdays and share information. It also an opportunity to settle the students as we begin the formal part of our school day. Students are expected to sit quietly to watch the person running the assembly and to join in saying the school prayer. I ask that parents model this behaviour for our students. It is incredibly difficult to have the full attention of students when parents are chatting. I also ask that parents stand in a location where they will not be a source of distraction or blocking the path for students trying to get to lines or when classes are moving off to class.

SCHOOL DAY: The first bell of the day is at 8.55am, it is expected that all students arrive at school prior to this bell so that they are ready to participate in the morning assembly. I have noted a number of students are arriving after assembly has started. Please make it a priority to have students at school on time.

UNIFORM: Thank you to families for ensuring students are in full school uniform.

LEADERS INDUCTION AND OFFICIAL OPENING AND BLESSING OF THE NEW BUILDING: Next Thursday, 12th February, we will hold our first whole school assembly for 2015. All families are warmly invited and encouraged to join with us for this important liturgy. We will be inducting our School Captains and all Year 6 students as leaders, Fr. Troy will also be officially opening and blessing the new building. The St Gregory's parish have been extraordinarily generous in providing funds for this project and without the parish we would not have the magnificent new classrooms that our Year 2 students and their teachers are now enjoying. Please come along and show your appreciation to Fr. Troy and the parish. The new building will be open for inspection also.

PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS: tonight, Tuesday, 3rd February at MacQuoid Street: Sessions commencing at 6:00pm and 6:30pm (repeat session).
Lowe St - Wednesday, 4th February: Sessions commencing at 6:00pm and 6:30pm (repeat session).
The aims of these sessions are to meet the teacher, visit the classroom, hear about matters particular to your child's class, learn about class routines and teacher expectations, et up lines of communication with the classroom teacher. This is not an opportunity for parent teacher interviews. If you think it is important to meet with your child's teacher early in the year please make a separate time. Thank you.

LOWE STREET PARKING: Parents with children at Lowe Street campus, please do not park or obstruct the driveway for the Parish Presbytery parking area. Thank you.

LOST PROPERTY: Any items that are misplaced are taken to LOST PROPERTY. At Lowe St this is near the canteen and at Macquoid St it is in the corridor outside the staff room. Last year we had some terrific volunteers who regularly went through the lost property so that any labelled items could be sent to classrooms. Any volunteers would be most welcome!

SCHOOL RULES: Stay Safe, Be Fair, Show Respect - Students have been discussing our rules and how they impact on our community. Perhaps families could adopt these rules at home.

PICK UP ROUTINES: It is very important the established pick up routines are followed. There are teachers rostered to supervise students at these pick up points, thus ensuring the safety of all. Students become easily distressed if parents are running late and so it is important that a teacher is available.
LOWE - Asphalt Side ONLY
MACQUOID - Bottom Gate (front of school on MacQuoid Street)
- Top Gate (oval on Mowatt Street)
OUR SCHOOL RULES

Stay Safe,
Be Fair,
Show Respect.

DOORKNOCK APPEAL 2015

St Vincent de Paul Canberra/Goulburn's annual Doorknock Appeal is just around the corner and as we get closer we are reaching out to the community for assistance.

Every year the funds raised through the Doorknock Appeal go to delivering a spectrum of services that provide immediate assistance to those in our community who need a hand up, including food, clothing, accommodation, mental health services, life skills, education and more.

Some of the help the Appeal enables us to provide include:
- Emergency packs containing food, medicine and personal hygiene products
- Clothing and specialised support services for vulnerable people transitioning into the workforce
- Providing somewhere safe to sleep and specialised support for women and children escaping domestic violence
- Preventing families from being evicted from their home

This year people will be giving their time to help people in need knocking on doors across Canberra, asking for contributions big or small. If you are able to contribute a couple of hours of your time to knock on some doors in your suburb, in February, you could help make a big difference.

If you're interested in being a part of the 2015 Doorknock Appeal with St Gregory's Primary School then please contact Kate McManus-Green on (02) 6297 2221.
SCOUTS = Adventure + Life Skills
Scouting is for boys and girls aged 6-25. Scouts participate in programs that encourage them to grow through adventure by experiencing new challenges, making new friends, building confidence, taking responsibility for themselves, and being provided with opportunities to explore their own abilities and interests. Come and try Scouts today and take advantage of our 3 week FREE trial.

Visit scouts.com.au to find your closest Scout Group or call 1800 SCOUTS

RELAX KIDS
Would you like your child to have better sleep, concentration, listening skills, attention span, confidence and self esteem? Do you wish to help your child to be more mindful and happy, reduce their stress and anxiety levels and manage their moods and emotions?

Each class includes: DYNAMIC warm-up and exercises, EXCITING games, RELAXING stretches, CALMING breathing exercises, SOOTHING processes, POSITIVE affirmations, CREATIVE visualisations, mindfulness and meditations.

Relax Kids Class Options in Jerra for term 1, 2015 (commencing Week 3 of term 1 for 6 weeks)
For 5-9 year olds – Wednesday at 4-5pm or Saturday at 1-2pm For 9-12 year olds – Wednesday at 2.15-3.15pm or Saturday at 2.15-3.15pm

For further information please visit www.relaxkids.com, email simone.naturopath@gmail.com or ph 6299 8219 to book in (Please book in early as spaces are limited)

Queanbeyan District Basketball
Enrolment/Payment Night
Term 1 Social Basketball
Day/Date: Wednesday 4th February 2015
Time: 5-7pm
Venue: Basketball Stadium-Cnr Southbar & Cooma St
For further information:
Visit www.foxsportspulse.com or Contact Rosie E: pete35@tpg.com.au Grades- Kindergarten to Year 6 Contact Carole E: cjduvall@hotmail.com High School and Senior Men & Women

Italian for Kids @ St Gregory’s Queanbeyan
Start Date & Time: 5th February 2015, Thursday
End Date & Time: 2nd April 2015, Thursday
Venue: St. Gregory’s Parish, 47 Lowe St.
Time: 3.30 to 4.30 p.m.
Fees Term One: $145 per child Sibling discounts apply. Please make a request at enrolment
Note: The LCF Italian Teacher will accompany your child at Lowe St Campus to St. Gregory’s Parish from 3.00 p.m. Please prepare some snacks for them.
For enrolment and more information, please contact Sarah 0431 252 768 or sarah.mak@lcfclubs.com.au or www.lcfclubs.com.au

QUEANBEYAN CITY FOOTBALL CLUB
Registration for Queanbeyan City Football Club Juniors will commence 22 Feb to coincide with the Mayor’s Cup at Riverside Stadium, Carinya St, Queanbeyan. There will be a desk with the Juniors Coordinator available to answer all questions from 1300-1530. Information will include Season dates, when training will commence, costs for registration (and how), external tournaments in the region and where training will occur. Any queries please contact Mick Coad at mcoad01@bigpond.com or on 0451 043 232. Or go to the QCFC website for more information or to register, www.qcfc.com.au.

SCHOOLS AS COMMUNITY CENTRES
Baby and Kids Expo Sat 7th March 10am-2pm Queanbeyan Public School. To book a stall contact Claire 6297 2144. Free entry, entertainment for the kids, and raffle tickets. Come along for a fun morning for the whole family.

Brain Gym workshop – Unresolved Reflexes. Saturday 28th Feb 9am-12.30pm at SaCC, in the grounds of Queanbeyan PS. Resolving reflexes may lead to improvements in health, behaviour, concentration, and progress at school, including social integration. Cost – just $10 for parents/carers/community and childcare workers or $5 concession. RSVP: Brooke 6297 2167