



ST GREGORY'S QUEANBEYAN NEWSLETTER

Week Two, Term One, 2015
3 February, 2015



Share the Spirit....

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

**Claire Frazer
Principal**

IMPORTANT EVENTS

Tuesday 3 February

MacQuoid Street Parent Info Night
- 6pm and repeated at 6:30pm

Wednesday 4 February

Lowe Street Parent Info Night
- 6pm and repeated at 6:30pm

Friday 6 February

Swimming Carnival - Years 3 to 6
Queanbeyan Aquatic Centre

Monday 9 February

Second Hand Clothing Pool Open
9am to 10am Lowe Street MPR

Thursday 12 February 2015

School Captains Induction Liturgy
Opening and Blessing of Parish Centre
12:30pm St Gregory's Hall

Friday 13 February 2015

Registration for Reconciliation closes
Canb/Goul Arch Basketball Trials - Young
Canb/Goul Arch Cricket Trials - Young

Monday 16 February

Second Hand Clothing Pool Open
9am to 10am Lowe Street MPR

Canb/Goul Arch Tennis Trials - Young

Tuesday 17 February

Reconciliation Teachers Retreat

Wednesday 18 February

Ash Wednesday

Monday 23 February

Second Hand Clothing Pool Open
9am to 10am Lowe Street MPR

Tuesday 24 February

School Council Meeting
6pm Lowe Street Staffroom

Reconciliation Parent Info Night
7pm St Gregory's Hall

Wednesday 25 February

Canb/Goulb, Parra & W'gong AFL Trials

Year 6 volunteers to George Forbes House
11am to 1pm

Thursday 26 February

Northern Region Swimming Carnival
Queanbeyan Aquatic Centre

Friday 27 February

Whole School Assembly (4 Blue/4 Red)
12:30pm St Gregory's Hall



Focus Value for February - "God Moments"

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, set 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)



SPORT NEWS

SWIMMING CARNIVAL - St Greg's swimming carnival will be held this FRIDAY 6 February at Queanbeyan Aquatic Centre. All students from Years 3 to 6 will participate. **We would appreciate the assistance of as many parents as possible to help us with the running of the Carnival.** The Carnival will begin at 9:45am and should conclude no later than 2:30pm. Students will begin the day at school and will walk to the pool with their teacher. Your child may leave with a parent/carer in the afternoon after you have informed their teacher. We are looking forward to a great day.

CANBERRA/GOULBURN ARCHDIOCESAN TRIALS - Basketball - Friday 13 February at Young Sports Stadium, Lachlan St, Young

Cricket - Friday 13 February at Keith Cullen Oval, Briggs St, Young.

Tennis - Monday 16 February at Young Tennis Club, Lachlan St, Young.

AFL - Wednesday 25 February at Thomas Dalton Park, South Wollongong.

Softball - Friday 6 March in Sydney (venue TBC)

Interested students are asked to collect nomination forms from Mr Maloney. Completed forms and \$15 to be returned to school by Thursday, 5 February. The purpose of the trials are to select teams to represent the Archdiocese. Students must be of good standard, in Year 5 or 6 and play representative sport. Students must be available for selection in all subsequent teams.

- Matthew Maloney, PE Teacher/Sport Coordinator.

SKOOLBAG

Skoolbag 
Complete communication solution

Our School now has our own Skoolbag iPhone and Android App to help us communicate more effectively with our Parent/Student community. We are asking parents/students to install our Skoolbag School App. To install it, just search for our school name "St Gregory's Primary School Queanbeyan" in either the Apple App Store, or Google Play Store.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

REGISTRATION FOR THE SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION FOR YEAR 3 STUDENTS

URGENT REMINDER

IF YOU HAVE A CHILD IN YEAR 3 (or above) WHO HAS BEEN BAPTISED, AND YOU WISH FOR THEM TO RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION, PLEASE REGISTER THEM BEFORE THE 13 FEBRUARY 2015.

Registration paperwork can be downloaded from the parish website at:

<http://www.stgregorysparishqueanbeyan.com/sacred-room/sacraments/first-reconciliation/>

Payment can be made via our on-line payment option on the website:

<http://www.stgregorysparishqueanbeyan.com/engine-room/online-payments/>

Please call the parish office if you have any questions regarding this sacrament on 62994611.

Thank you. St Gregory's Parish, Queanbeyan

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.

CANTEEN

Helpers at Lowe Street this week are:

Thursday 6 February Erika O'Brien
Friday 7 February Virginia Krause

Volunteers are always welcome at MacQuoid Street, even if you are only available for an hour. Thank you.

Noticeboard

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



Brand New Child Care Centre

Opening Early 2015

Now taking Enquiries

- Catering for children 6weeks to 6 years
 - 7:00am-6:00pm
 - Meals, Linen, Nappies and Wipes included
 - 1 of a kind school readiness program that will provide your child with a smooth transition and best head start to school
- 7-9 McKeahnie Street Queanbeyan
E: enquiries@succeedconsultancy.com.au
Phone: 0419 335 990



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 peer massage, 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 5.15-6.15pm 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)



Registrations now open for 2015

New players
All ages
Welcome

- Visit our website for online registration
<http://sunrise.nsw.netball.com.au>
- Like our Facebook page
www.facebook.com/SunriseNetball
- Contact our committee
Email: sunriseselector@outlook.com
Kelly Lolesio (President) 0428004202
Tracie Brady (Registrar) 0423432952
- Meet our coaches and players and register at Riverside Plaza From 9.30 am on 31 January and 14 February

Come and be part of a great team in 2015
Netball season starts 21 March
See you on the courts!



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@lcflubs.com.au or www.lcflubs.com.au