Dear Parents and Carers,

Last Wednesday afternoon I was privileged to be part of the Mass in celebration of the life of Gwen Bell. I am sure that our unassuming Mrs Bell would have been very surprised to see St Raphael’s Church packed for her requiem Mass. I was not surprised as Gwen touched the lives and hearts of so many people during her time at St Gregory’s. It was special to see current and former students and staff come together to pay tribute to our Gwen, a humble servant of God.

It would not have been possible to have our staff attend Gwen’s funeral without the support of Catholic Education, St Francis of Assisi Primary School Calwell, St Clare of Assisi Primary School Conder and Holy Family Primary School Gowrie. I am most appreciative of the staff from these places who came to take classes during Wednesday afternoon. I include in my thanks the teaching and support staff who chose to stay at school. It is times like this you become even more aware of our place as part of a wider Archdiocesan community. As well as former staff of St Gregory’s attending the funeral, office staff from our Catholic schools in Goulburn and Braidwood also attended.

The theme for February is God Moments. God’s blessings are with us all day every day but often we are too busy or distracted to recognise these moments of God. Last week it came in the way of emails from parents expressing condolences, parents giving me a hug and not saying a word, children telling their Mrs Bell stories, staff being extraordinarily generous with their time.

The Gospel reading at Mass last Sunday tells of Jesus holding his hand out to Simon’s mother-in-law and her being instantly relieved of her fever. Jesus is constantly holding out his hand to lift us from our pain, anguish or confusion. Simons’ mother-in-law had to respond to Jesus reaching out to her and have faith in his love of her. Those who seek God will find God everywhere.

May you recognise the God moments in your life,

Claire Frazer
Principal
Another fantastic sporting event for St Gregory’s. My thanks to Matt Maloney and all the staff involved in planning, preparing, and setting up, marshalling, timing, recording and supervising. It is a big day but when I visited I was hearing only positive comments about the organisation of the day and the conduct of the students. Of course the day could not happen without the amazing support and participation from our parent and wider family helpers. The next Swimming Carnival will be the Northern Region – St Bede’s Braidwood, St Mary’s Crookwell, St Joseph’s North Goulburn, Ss Peter and Paul Goulburn and Mt Carmel Yass – that we will be hosting on Thursday 26th February.

HATS: I was dismayed to hear that up to 30 students arrived at school for the Swimming Carnival on Friday with no hat. My thanks to Lauren Macdonald who purchased some for student use. It is challenging convincing students of the importance of wearing hats given that any sun damage caused may not be evident for many years to come. I ask you to help us in getting the message through about the importance of wearing hats – I could not help but note that not all parents were wearing hats on Friday … our example is the best teacher.

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHTS: My thanks to the staff for their time in presenting the Information Sessions last week. Special thanks to Lowe St staff who decided to keep to the timetable and run the workshops on the evening of Gwen’s funeral. If you were unable to attend please make sure you make contact with your child’s teacher in regards to class routines.

MORNING ASSEMBLIES: I have included the text of our school prayer. I encourage parents who are at assembly to join us in saying the prayer. A reminder to parents to model the behaviour we want from our students mainly listening attentively to the person speaking.

KINDERGARTEN FULL DAYS: Our newest students began full days yesterday. When I visited the 4 classes last Friday I was impressed by how quickly ‘most’ have settled into the routines of big school. A reminder to parents to please collect your children from the asphalt side of the playground. There is a teacher assigned to the after school duty on the asphalt who stays until all children are collected.

SKOOLBAG APP: I have the app downloaded on my phone, so much information. I appreciate that last week you were bombarded with paperwork. Unfortunately it is inevitable at this time of the year. It is vital that we have current and accurate contact information and of course it is essential that our medical alert information is up to date. Thanks for your assistance.

PARENT CONTACTS: Thanks to the parents who have already volunteered to act as the Parent Contact for their child’s class. We still need more so please consider taking on this role.

SCHOOL FEES: Statements will be posted to families this week. School fees are due for payment by Friday 13 March 2015. Payment Plans are available, please contact the Bursar, Emma McAuliffe at Lowe Street 6297 1396 - Thursday or Friday.

UNIFORM: A reminder that all long hair needs to be tied back. It is so that students are well presented but perhaps more importantly as a protection against head lice. Head lice do not jump but they will swing – Tarzan like – from hair to hair. As we begin the year we have our usual outbreak of head lice, please keep children at home and treat as directed. Please be diligent in checking your child for head lice. No one likes having them or treating them but we all have to work together.

St Gregory’s School Prayer

God our Father, through Your Son Jesus Christ and with Your Holy Spirit, guide us today on our journey of learning. May our school be a place of wisdom, peace and friendship, where together, we can grow and learn to be the best that we can be. Help us to seek truth and be faithful children of Yours. St Gregory the Great, pray for us.

All families and friends are warmly invited to the Year 6 Leaders’ Induction Liturgy and Official Opening of our new building on Thursday 12th February at 12:30pm in the School Hall – MacQuoid Street.
SPORT NEWS

SWIMMING CARNIVAL - What a great day. The House spirit was outstanding, student behaviour exceptional and the competition was fierce. Thank you to our parents/carers and helpers for volunteering on the day. The carnival would not be possible without your assistance and it was very much appreciated. It was also great to see the large number of students participating in the races. Congratulations to the teachers who won the teachers v students relay after suffering defeat last year. Our Northern Region team has been finalised today and notes handed out to students.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SOCCER CARNIVAL - will be held on Sunday 15 March 2015 at the University of Canberra in Bruce from 8:30am, aiming to finish by 3:30pm. Football matches will be organised in a round robin format with no finals. Teams will play approximately four games over two 12-minute halves with 8 players (Years 3-4) or 11 players (Years 5-6). If your child would like to register to play please collect a registration form from the MacQuoid Office. Registrations close this FRIDAY 13 FEBRUARY.

CANB/GOULB ARCHDIOCESAN WINTER TRIALS will be held on Monday 9 March from 10am to 2pm.

Open Rugby League - Wright Park, Queanbeyan
11 Years Rugby League - Wright Park, Queanbeyan
Boys Football - High Street, Queanbeyan
Girls Football - High Street, Queanbeyan
Netball - Netball Courts, Thornton Road, Queanbeyan
Boys and Girls Hockey - Individual entry

Interested students are asked to collect nomination forms from Mr Maloney. Completed forms and $15 to be returned to school by Monday, 2 March. 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.

A MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP PROWSE

Dear Friends,
The Lenten season is soon to begin – Ash Wednesday is 18th February 2015. As we return to our normal routines, let us prepare in our various communities for this season that recalls our Baptism and stresses its penitential dimension. It is a time of conversion as we prepare for the saving events of our salvation at Easter. Pope Francis, in his Lenten message for this year, http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/lent/documents/papa-francesco_20141004_messaggio-quaresima2015.html, highlights that Lent is a time of conversion against globalised indifference to those who suffer. The Pope writes: “Indifference to our neighbour and to God also represents a real temptation for us Christians. Each year during Lent we need to hear once more the voice of the prophets who cry out and trouble our conscience.”

Could I ask all in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn to prepare now to enter into this penitential season. I attach information regarding the Lenten requirements. Could I also encourage Project Compassion (Caritas) as a pre-eminent way to respond practically to those who suffer. Having recently returned from Beirut, Lebanon, I have seen first-hand the wonderful practical ways that Caritas helps those who are so fragile in our troubled world.

May God bless you, your families, parishes and communities during 2015.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse
Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn

OUR SCHOOL RULES

Stay Safe, Be Fair, Show Respect.

LIBRARY NEWS

Book Fair at Lowe Street - Book Fair is coming to Lowe Street in Week 6 on Wednesday, 4th March from 8:30am - 6:30pm. We will have our usual guessing and coloring competitions and also a Lucky Door prize. Watch the Newsletter for further details. Thea Stilton will be making a guess appearance at our Fair.

Lamont Book Club - Brochures were given out to classes on Friday. Ordering is done online and books will come back to school in class and student bundles. Closing date for Issue 1 is 27 February 2015.

ST GREG’S YOUTH GROUP

Impact (Yrs4-6) will be running from 4.30pm-6pm every Sunday recommencing the 8th February.

Souled Out (Yrs7-12) will be running fortnightly on a Sunday from 6.30pm-8pm, recommencing the 13th Feb. Both Groups are held in St Gregory’s Hall.

SKOOLBAG

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.

A MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP PROWSE

Dear Friends,
The Lenten season is soon to begin – Ash Wednesday is 18th February 2015. As we return to our normal routines, let us prepare in our various communities for this season that recalls our Baptism and stresses its penitential dimension. It is a time of conversion as we prepare for the saving events of our salvation at Easter. Pope Francis, in his Lenten message for this year, http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/lent/documents/papa-francesco_20141004_messaggio-quaresima2015.html, highlights that Lent is a time of conversion against globalised indifference to those who suffer. The Pope writes: “Indifference to our neighbour and to God also represents a real temptation for us Christians. Each year during Lent we need to hear once more the voice of the prophets who cry out and trouble our conscience.”

Could I ask all in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn to prepare now to enter into this penitential season. I attach information regarding the Lenten requirements. Could I also encourage Project Compassion (Caritas) as a pre-eminent way to respond practically to those who suffer. Having recently returned from Beirut, Lebanon, I have seen first-hand the wonderful practical ways that Caritas helps those who are so fragile in our troubled world.

May God bless you, your families, parishes and communities during 2015.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse
Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn

OUR SCHOOL RULES

Stay Safe, Be Fair, Show Respect.

LIBRARY NEWS

Book Fair at Lowe Street - Book Fair is coming to Lowe Street in Week 6 on Wednesday, 4th March from 8:30am - 6:30pm. We will have our usual guessing and coloring competitions and also a Lucky Door prize. Watch the Newsletter for further details. Thea Stilton will be making a guess appearance at our Fair.

Lamont Book Club - Brochures were given out to classes on Friday. Ordering is done online and books will come back to school in class and student bundles. Closing date for Issue 1 is 27 February 2015.

ST GREG’S YOUTH GROUP

Impact (Yrs4-6) will be running from 4.30pm-6pm every Sunday recommencing the 8th February.

Souled Out (Yrs7-12) will be running fortnightly on a Sunday from 6.30pm-8pm, recommencing the 13th Feb. Both Groups are held in St Gregory’s Hall.

SKOOLBAG

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.

ST GREG’S YOUTH GROUP

Impact (Yrs4-6) will be running from 4.30pm-6pm every Sunday recommencing the 8th February.

Souled Out (Yrs7-12) will be running fortnightly on a Sunday from 6.30pm-8pm, recommencing the 13th Feb. Both Groups are held in St Gregory’s Hall.
Acting Antics acting classes help you to…
- Speak in clear expressive English
- Improve acting & performance skills
- Express yourself with confidence
- Extend creative & dramatic potential
- Learn theatre skills
- Every student gets a meaningful role with dialogue & fabulous costumes.
This year’s Gala Performance is “Aladdin and the Magic Carpet” Performance will be in the Tim Murray Theatre, CGS, Red Hill, 18/19 Sept.
Fees: Season 1 (Term 1&2) $306.00 Free trial – Start any time - Pro-rata fees - Sibling discount
Register at http://ctcau.actingantics.com
Enquiries: admin@actingantics.com
03 9018 7890 – 0409 507773

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 & raffle tickets. 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 P5. Resolving reflexes may lead to improvements in health, behaviour, concentration, and progress at school, including social integration. Cost – just $10 for parents/carers/ community childcare workers or $5 canoe. RSVP: Brooke 6297 2167

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: cjuvall@hotmail.com High School & Seniors

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: 5-7pm
Fees Term One: $145 per child
Contact our committee Email: sunrisesecretary@outlook.com Kelly Lolesio (President) 0428 004 202 Tracie Brady (Registrar) 0423 432 952
Meet our coaches and players and register at Riverside Plaza from 9:30am this Saturday, 14 February.