Dear Parents and Carers,

Last Wednesday, Ash Wednesday the students and their teachers gathered together for Mass (Years 2-6) or a liturgy (K-1) in St Raphael’s Church. A medical appointment made it impossible for me to attend but I have been contacted by parishioners complimenting us on the behaviour and reverent participation of the students during Mass. I have to say in the past at other schools I have been contacted by parishioners and the feedback was not often positive! Congratulations to the teachers and students. Another precious God Moment for us all to appreciate.

The gospel for the First Sunday of Lent was about Jesus being driven by the Spirit into the desert for 40 days. Jesus did not choose to go into the desert – he was driven into the desert by the Spirit to be with the wild beasts. I would like to share excerpts from a reflection on this gospel reading that I have been reading from the Edmund Rice website. [http://www.edmundrice.org.au](http://www.edmundrice.org.au)

I wonder what might be the modern day equivalent of Jesus living among the wild beasts for 40 days in the desert? We don’t have to reflect for too long to discover that our contemporary world is something of a moral desert, inhabited by all kinds of wild beasts. How else would you describe a world that has recently witnessed the following: A sportsman is offered a contract for $250 million while health care workers, who would attend to him were he to suffer an injury, are paid something like $16 an hour. The top 4% of the world’s richest people have more money between them than the bottom 40% of the poor put together. Millions of people in the developed world turned out to protest the brutal 7th January murder of the 11 staff members of the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo. Three days later, Boko Haram terrorists massacred an estimated 2000 children, women and elderly people in a village in Nigeria and there was barely a whimper of protest. The silence of world’s media was deafening.

We live in a world that is calling out for forgiveness and reconciliation. It is in dire need of a Jesus who can remind it of its true purpose, who can say to it: ‘This is the time of fulfilment. The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, repent and believe in the gospel.’ As disciples of Jesus, we commit ourselves to take his place, and to be Jesus and his good news for the world.

Lent is our time to go into our inner desert. A time to reflect and reinvigorate our relationship with God and those around us. At St Greg’s the students talk about Making Jesus Real. That is our mission to make Jesus real to those around us.

Making Jesus Real

May you recognise the God moments in your life,

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

**PRAYERS:** Let us try and say this simple yet powerful prayer every day for all those in our community in need of our prayerful support. Glory be to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

**CONGRATULATIONS:** to Emma and Ryan Gibson on the birth of a beautiful baby daughter, Georgia Jill. A little sister for Hugh and Tom.

**PARENT CONTACTS:** Many thanks to the 23 parents who have volunteered as Parent Contacts. The following classes are still waiting for a volunteer – 1Blue Miss Neubeck, 1Gold Mrs Goodall, 3Blue Mr Gomez, 4Blue Mrs Docking and Mrs Menser, 4White Mrs Ducker, 5Red Mr Brown, 5White Miss Ellis, 6Gold Mr Wigg and 6White Miss Garrett. Anyone interested should email me directly claire.frazer@cg.catholic.edu.au

**CHOR:** Dee McFaul, our music teacher, with assistance from Fron Garrett and Amanda Ducker has finalised the choir members following auditions. Dee did explain in her classes that not all students will be selected for the choir but I am sure that there will still be some disappointed children this week. It is never an easy lesson to be unsuccessful. Please let me know if you would like me to follow up with any disappointed choir aspirants.

**HATS:** I share the frustration that many parents are experiencing with hats going missing regularly. I can assure you that any hats that turn up in lost property which are labelled are returned to classrooms. I know too that teachers are checking names on hats of the younger students to ensure that they have the one with their name on it! We face the constant challenge at school in encouraging students to take responsibility for their own belongings. I know it is tempting and so much more time efficient to pack bags, carry bags and put bags in lines but that is only reinforcing the notion that someone else will look after their belongings. Whilst teachers will assist and encourage students it is not their responsibility to look after the personal belongings of students.

**BUSES:** There are a number of our students who are disembarking from their school buses at the Queanbeyan Interchange and then making their own way to school, usually with a detour to the Riverside Plaza. Last year I did contact some parents and they indicated that their children had permission to leave the school bus early. Please check with your child that their transport plans each day are consistent with what you expect is happening.

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK:** We will be celebrating Catholic Schools Week along with all the Catholic Schools of NSW and the ACT. Please make a note in your diaries in regards to the following workshops on offer for parents and carers:
* Monday 9th March – Literacy Workshop at Lowe Street 9:20am conducted by Julie Wiley and Erin Taylor
* Wednesday 11th March – Reading Workshop at Lowe Street at 2pm conducted by Lauren Macdonald
* Thursday 12th March – Numeracy Workshop at MacQuoid Street at 2pm conducted by Kate McManus-Green

**KIDSMATTER:** As a Kidsmatter school we have access to a series of information sheets for families. This year we are implementing Component 3 – Parenting support and information. The brochures that will be coming home with the newsletter this year are grouped in the following headings – Learning, Children's Emotions, Social Development, Discipline, Family Relationships and Mental Health Basics. The first sheet has information and suggestions for parents about helping children with learning by scaffolding their learning experiences.

**PICK UP AT LOWE:** Last Friday afternoon I was doing my usual afternoon duty at Lowe. The kindergarten classes had ended their day together in the Multi-Purpose Room upstairs and came straight out to the asphalt area. I had to comfort several children who were upset because they could not see mum or dad on the asphalt. This was because parents were waiting on the grass side. It is very important that parents support the school in the established routines for pick up. There is a teacher rostered for duty on the asphalt and stays until every child has been collected.

**WAITING FOR THE MACQUOID BUSES AT LOWE:** I am seeking your assistance and cooperation in another area. There are a number of parents with younger siblings that are waiting for children to arrive by bus in the afternoon from MacQuoid. It would be of great assistance to the teachers on bus duty, who have the sometimes stressful job of ensuring that all children end up on the right bus, if parents would wait inside the gate at the end of the building near the KWhite classroom. I know some parents also wait on the asphalt side which is very helpful. Bus drivers had also expressed concern about the young children playing so close to the road as the buses pull into the stop.
LIBRARY NEWS

LOWE LIBRARY BOOK FAIR
Book Fair is coming to Lowe St in Week 6 on Wednesday, 4th March from 8:30am - 6:30pm. This year our guessing competition is - How many mints does it take to freshen a dragon's breath? We will also have our usual Lucky Door prize and our colouring contest which will be designing a Coat of Arms. Thea Stilton will be making a guest appearance at our Fair - next week's newsletter will detail the times Thea will be making her appearances.

Lamont Book Club - Last chance to order from the Lamont Book Club. Ordering is done online and books will come back to school in class and student bundles. Closing date for orders for Issue 1 is 23 February 2015.

Premiers Reading Challenge
PRC starts on the 2 March 2015. Please read the separate flyer and decide if this is something you and your child might like to participate in.

SPORT NEWS

MAL MENINGA CUP/LAURIE DALEY SHIELD - Wed 11 March
Students in Years 3-6 who are experienced and competent rugby league players are invited to collect a permission note from the front office. No transport will be provided. Students must make their own way to and from Kambah Playing Fields.

MATT GITEAU CUP - Wed 25 March
Students in Years 5-6 who are experienced and competent rugby players are invited to collect a permission note from the front office. No transport will be provided. Students must make their own way to and from Brumbies HQ, Uni of Canberra.

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

OUR SCHOOL RULES

Stay Safe,
Be Fair,
Show Respect.

FAMILY PORTRAITS

St Gregory’s School will be hosting an advancedlife Family Portrait Fundraising Day on Sunday, 29 March.
For your $20 you receive a choice of a 10x13" family portrait or pencil sketch plus a bonus key ring with family photo. Additional photos will be taken and available for purchase, at no obligation. These additional photos include: portraits, gift cards and calendar - featuring your family portrait and other photos taken on the day. Please contact Jane King on 6297 2221 to book your appointment. Payment is required before the photo day to secure your booking.

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.

READING & WRITING WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS

Associate Professor (Adjunct) Kaye Lowe will host a workshop for parents on Monday, 2nd March from 7pm to 8:30pm. It will be held in the library at MacQuoid St. This workshop is designed to eliminate the stress and anxiety that parents often experience when assisting their children at home with reading and writing. The emphasis is on bringing back the joy and love to reading and writing.

This workshop is designed to reinforce the efforts of classroom teachers. It is philosophically aligned with the National Curriculum. When parents are aware of effective ways to assist their children, teachers benefit. Parents are essential advocates for addressing the ever-present concerns associated with reading and writing difficulties.

If you are interested in attending, please complete below and return to the office by Thursday, 26th February - Julie Wiley.

I, ......................................................(Name) will be attending the Literacy Workshop with Associate Professor Kaye Lowe in MacQuoid Library on Monday, 2nd March at 7pm.

Email address: ..........................................................

Phone No: ..................................................Eldest Child and Class:..................................................
CELEBRATING 175 YEARS

175th Anniversary of the establishment of the faith community of St Gregory’s Parish.
“There are many rooms in my father's house.”

The 175th Anniversary of the inauguration of the Queanbeyan mission by Archbishop Polding will be celebrated at Mass and morning tea on Sunday 9th August at 9:30am at St Gregory’s School Hall in Queanbeyan. The parish office is seeking any historical photos of early events anywhere in the original mission area. Please contact the parish office on 62994611 if you can help.

ST GREG’S YOUTH GROUP

Impact (Yrs4-6) will be running from 4:30pm-6pm every Sunday.
Souled Out (Yrs7-12) will be running fortnightly on a Sunday from 6.30pm-8pm, next session 29th Feb. Both Groups are held in St Gregory’s Hall.

NOTICEBOARD

HOOK IN 2 HOCKEY 2015 PROGRAM
The Hook in 2 Hockey Program teaches basic hockey skills through a series of game-like activities, that promote fun and participation. Queanbeyan United Hockey Club (QUHC) is looking for boys and girls aged between 6-12 years and 13-16 years.
Dates: Every Wednesday from 4th March to 25th March
Venue: Tuggeranong Hockey Fields, Soward Way, Greenway
Time: 6pm-7pm
Cost: $50 includes hockey stick, shin pads, etc
To register please phone Mark Unwin 0419 485 385

Does your child love to act, dress up and perform? Join an ACTING ANTICS performance acting class and perform in this year’s gala performance.
Venue: St Gregory’s School, Lowe Street MPR
Day & Time: Wednesdays from 3:30pm - 4:30pm starting 11th Feb
Ages: Children from all schools aged 7 - 11 years
Fees: Fees: Season 1 (Term 1&2) $306.00
Free trial – Start any time - Pro-rata fees - Sibling discount
This year’s Gala Performance is “Aladdin and the Magic Carpet”
Enquiries: admin@actingantics.com
Register at http://ctcau.actingantics.com
03 9018 7890 – 0409 507773

End the week with a kick!
The Queanbeyan Indoor Sports Centre’s junior indoor soccer competition has begun
Individuals or teams can join at any time!
The following competitions run on Friday at the following times
Under 8’s - 5:00
Under 11’s - 5:30
Youth - 6:00
Any questions contact 6297 7435 or e: qisc@qiscweb.com

SCHOOLS AS COMMUNITY CENTRES
Brain Gym workshop – Unresolved Reflexes - LAST CHANCE TO BOOK YOUR PLACE! Sat 28th Feb 9am-12:30pm at SAC, Queanbeyan PS. Resolving reflexes may lead to improvements in health, behaviour, concentration, & progress at school, including social integration. Cost – just $10 for parents/carers/community and childcare workers or $5 concession. RSVP: Brooke 6297 2167.
Baby and Kids Expo Sat 7th March 10am-2pm Queanbeyan Public School. To book a market stall (just $15) contact Trish 0412 463 075. Free entry, entertainment for the kids, free raffle tickets and goody bag on entry. Come along for a fun morning for the whole family
* We need volunteers to man the gates – if you can spare an hour please contact Brooke 6297 2167*

WE HAVE VACANCIES
CALL US TODAY
6297 4359

CLEANER WANTED
Casual cleaner required locally. Approximately 10 hours per week during school hours. Contact Sharon 0419 289 431.