Dear Parents and Carers,

This week is Catholic Schools Week. Catholic schools enrol about 20 per cent of Australian school students. There are 615 Catholic Primary and Secondary schools across NSW and the ACT, providing quality education in a faith-centred environment. In celebrating Catholic Schools Week we celebrate and acknowledge what it is about our school that makes us different to other schools in the Queanbeyan area – we are a school based on the values of Christ.

On Friday afternoon all staff from our Archdiocesan Catholic Schools have been invited to a Mass of Celebration and Recognition. Last year I nominated Fr. Troy Bobbin and the staff of St Gregory’s to be recognised for the program we have instituted to prepare our students for the reception of the Sacraments. I also nominated Gwen Bell for her outstanding service to Catholic Education over many years. I am pleased to say that both nominations were successful.

It a great sadness for us that Gwen will not be here to have her love and service to our school publically acknowledged. Gwen was very humble about the nomination but quietly very excited about the Mass and having her family present. Gwen’s daughter Susie and granddaughter Amelia will attend the Mass and will accept the award on Gwen’s behalf.

May you recognise the God moments in your life,

Claire Frazer
Principal
Focus Value for March - “Be A Forgiver”

From the Principal......

PRAYERS: Please keep in your prayers the family and friends of Tara Costigan, the young mum tragically killed last week. Tara’s two sons attend one of our Catholic Primary Schools in Canberra and I ask that you keep that community in your prayers as well.

CONGRATULATIONS: Matt Maloney for the successful convening of the Archdiocesan Swimming Carnival last Tuesday. My thanks to Julie Wiley, Erin Taylor who assisted with marshalling and to Brad Brown was manager of the NR Team. Congratulations to those swimmers who have qualified to swim in Sydney.

STATE ELECTIONS: Please remember to take into consideration funding for Education in general and Catholic Schools in particular in this upcoming election. Attached to this newsletter please find a brochure prepared by the Catholic Education Commission in conjunction with the Catholic School Parents group. I ask you to be mindful of the fact that in NSW there are three educational sectors in the primary schools – Government, Private and Systemic. St Gregory’s is a systemic catholic primary. Whilst public perception can often be that somehow our schools are costing the government the reality is that our schools save the taxpayer more than $3600 per student per year.

PRINCIPAL RETREAT: I had the privilege of participating in a retreat last Thursday and Friday facilitated by Archbishop Christopher Prowse. Archbishop Chris invited us in this season of Lent to be mindful of the 3 S’s. The following is an excerpt written by the Archbishop. There is SILENCE. Being silent in a noisy world is not as easy as it seems. But real silence is not simply an absence of noise. It is an interior act of paying attention and truly listening to the Holy Spirit deep within us all. Then there is STILLNESS. As with silence, stillness has both interior and exterior dimensions. There needs to be physical stillness. Again this is not easy in a world of perpetual movement. But physical stillness helps to still the mind and heart. We focus on Jesus within us. Try it! It will take time! Be patient! Lastly, there is SIMPLICITY. We do not have to perform in prayer. We do not have to tell Jesus all the great things we are doing and slide over the things we are not doing. Prayer is about presence not performance. Simply being in the presence of Jesus and waiting on him is superior prayer. It is the prayer of Mary, who simply treasures and ponders all that the Lord is doing within her. Let us imitate Mary!

KIDS MATTER: This week our pamphlet offers suggestions as to how parents can help their children with thinking and learning.

PARENT WORKSHOPS: 6 parents attended today’s Workshop presented by Julie Wiley and Erin Taylor on Literacy and from all accounts found the session very informative. A reminder that Lauren Macdonald will be presenting a workshop about Reading TOMORROW (Wednesday) at 2pm at Lowe Street. Kate McManus-Green will do a Numeracy Workshop on Thursday at 2pm at MacQuoid Street.

PLAYGROUND: A reminder to all parents and carers that to ensure the safety of our students adults are required to park and walk to the designated collection point. I do appreciate that it can be so very frustrating to find a park and then time consuming however the safety of our children must be paramount. If you have an illness or circumstances that cause this procedure to be overwhelming please do not hesitate to contact me so that we can discuss alternative arrangements.

OPEN COUNCIL MEETING/DISCO: The disco is on this Thursday night. The Junior Disco starts at 6:15pm-7:15pm and the Primary disco starts at 7:30pm-9pm. There will also be an Open Council Meeting on the night. Sausages in bread will be sold for a gold coin donation.

DOGS: First I must declare that I am a dog person and my dog Clooney accompanies me to school on weekends. I appreciate that walking the children and dog to school is a pleasant activity. I would simply like to add a word of caution. I am fairly confident that my dog would not bite however if he was to be swarmed by a loud group of enthusiastic children he may get frightened. If you do wish to bring your dog to school please ensure that it is on a lead at all times and where possible avoid being near large groups of children.

SWIMMING SURVEY: A reminder to parents to please complete the short survey question about our Learn To Swim Program. https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/XW2D5T6

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SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL NOMINATION

I, .................................................................................................................................................. (Name) wish to nominate for membership of the St Gregory’s School Community Council.

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

PhoneNo: .................................................................................. Signed:..................................................................................
**LIBRARY NEWS**

**LOWE STREET BOOK FAIR**
Thank you to all those who attended our Book Fair. A reminder to return your colouring competition to school by Friday, 13th March 2015. Prizes will be announced next week for all competitions.

**LAMONT BOOK CLUB**
Book Club orders have arrived at school and should have come home with your child today.

**PREMIERS READING CHALLENGE**
You can still register. Flyers with registration details can be found on the school website under the Notes tab (http://stgregsps.nsw.edu.au/notes/). I will be working on the registrations over the next few weeks and will have user names and passwords out to families before the Easter break. It will be sent via email (if you have provided it) or else it will come home with your child.

Encourage your child to read eligible books. We have them on display in the Library. Any questions can be directed to rosalind.wythes@cg.catholic.edu.au

Thank you - Rosalind Wythes.

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**SPORT NEWS**

**MAL MENINGA CUP/LAURIE DALEY SHIELD** will be held tomorrow Wednesday 11 March from 8:45am at Kambah District Playing Fields.

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SOCCER CARNIVAL** Good luck to St Greg’s FC who will compete at the Catholic Schools Soccer Carnival this Sunday at Bruce. First games start at 8:30am, so please arrive no later than 8:00am. Thank you to Luca and Nick Gagliardi who will manage the team.

**ARCHDIOCESAN SWIMMING CARNIVAL** Congratulations to the following students from St Gregory’s who will represent the Canberra/Goulburn Archdiocese at the Archdiocesan swimming carnival on 20 March at SOPAC Homebush - Eleina Lofesio, Angelina Brown, Imogen Dorsett, Skyla Robinson-McEvoy and Sam Robinson.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Ben Thurling and Josh Fahey who have been selected in the Canberra/Goulburn Archdiocese 12yrs rugby league team. These boys will now attend the Mackillop trials.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Skyla Robinson-McEvoy, Sienna Birnie and Isabella Barac who have been selected in the Canberra/Goulburn Archdiocese girls football team. These girls will now attend the Mackillop trials.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Lauren Russell who has been selected for Canberra/Goulburn Archdiocese netball to trial for Mackillop.

**MATT GITEAU CUP** will be held on 25 March at UC.

**CROSS COUNTRY** - Students from Years 3-6 will participate in our annual Cross Country Carnival at Wright Park on Friday, 27 March.

**NETBALL NSW SCHOOLS CUP - Wed 1 April** - Students in Years 5&6 who are experienced and competent netball players are invited to collect a registration note from the front office. No transport will be provided to Thornton Rd Netball Courts. Registrations close Friday, 13 March.

- Matthew Maloney, PE Teacher & Sport Coordinator.

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**MOTHER’S DAY STALL**

The Gwen Bell Mother’s Day Stall will be held on Friday, 8 May. All families are encouraged to donate a SMALL WRAPPED GIFT (clear wrapping please) to the value of between $2 and $5. Please send your gifts to school by Friday, 24 April. Some ideas for donations include: candles, note books, diary, journals, pens, wooden spoons, kitchen gadgets, cook books, tea towels, coffee mugs, candles, etc. For every gift donated students will receive a ticket to win a fantastic raffle prize!

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**FRUITASTIC CRUNCH LUNCH**

The Year 6 Spirit Team will be selling biscuits and cut up fruit in Week 9 to raise money for Project Compassion. They are calling it Fruitastic Crunch Lunch - and are in need of donations of packets of biscuits (which could start coming in now) and fresh fruit in Week 9. They will sell on Tuesday and Wednesday at MacQuoid St and on Thursday at Lowe St. Anything left over will be used for the cross country carnival on the Friday. Thank you - Lauren Macdonald, REC.
ST GREGORY’S QUEANBEYAN
NEWSLETTER

CANTEEN
Helpers at Lowe Street this week are:
Thursday 12 March Help Needed Please
Friday 13 March Help Needed Please
Volunteers are always welcome at MacQuoid Street, even if you are only available for an hour. Thank you.

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 15th March. Both Groups are held in St Gregory’s Hall.

CELEBRATING 175 YEARS
175th Anniversary of the establishment of the faith community of St Gregory’s Parish.

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.

LOST PROPERTY

LOST - James Taloni (6 Blue) has lost his IPod. It has a jelly bean case. If found, please ph: 6299 3969.

FAMILY PORTRAITS

Sunday, 29 March - MacQuoid Street Library.
Have you made your booking?
Only some afternoon appointments left!
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. Please contact Jane King on 6297 2221 to book your appointment. Payment is required before the photo day to secure your booking.

OUR SCHOOL RULES

Stay Safe,
Be Fair,
Show Respect.

NOTICEBOARD

DARAMALAN COLLEGE
ENROLMENT DATES FOR 2016
Open Evening - Thursday 26 March 2015 - Tours 5pm to 6:30pm
followed by the Year 7, 2016 information session from 7pm to 8pm.

Pre-Enrolment Day for Year 6 Catholic Primary School Students - Thursday 30 April 2015 from 10am to 1:45pm.

“Try Dara for a Day” - Tuesday 5 May 2015 (full or half day options available but the day is only for those who do not attend on 30 April.

Year 11, 2016 Information Evening - Wednesday 20 May 2015 from 7:30pm.

Contact the Registrar on 6245 6348 or find further information about enrolments on our website: www.daramalan.act.edu.au

ARCHDIOCESAN ASSEMBLY
It is countdown time to embrace 2015 - Archdiocesan Assembly – 20 (Mass) & 21 March. The Mass and Assembly are open to all parishioners. Great keynotes, activities for children of all ages, food and an Expo are all part of this great Archdiocesan event. Bring your family, bring a friend, but don’t forget Registration is essential.
Go to embrace2015.org.au or ring 6163 4300.

GUITAR LESSONS

Whether you are a beginner or an intermediate student, I can help you learn the ins and outs of guitar! Lessons are $35 for half an hour weekly. All lessons will be held in my home office in Crestwood. You don’t need a guitar but it is preferred. Electric or acoustic!

Contact Alex Short on 0423 162 829 or alexeshort23@gmail.com

FEMALE ONLY GYM
BRAND NEW!!
Brand new female only gym has just opened in Jerrabomberra. Located next to Woolies at the Jerra Shops. State of the art equipment. Group fitness and personal training available. Pop in for your FREE 7 day trial pass.

KARABAR HIGH SCHOOL
INVITATION for Year 6 Students and Parents to attend YEAR 7 (2016)
PRESENTATION AND TOUR OF THE SCHOOL
Date: Tuesday 10th March, 2015
Time: 6.00pm
Venue: Karabar High School Hall
Queries phone: 6298 4333