Dear Parents and Carers,

The Mass last Friday to celebrate Catholic School Week was an amazing experience. As I wrote last week Gwen Bell had been nominated to be recognised for her amazing contribution to Catholic Education. St Gregory’s was represented by nearly 30 staff members who chose to attend this Mass on a Friday afternoon at 4.45pm. It was a very humbly experience to see so many of your staff in attendance. When Gwen’s daughter and granddaughter went forward to accept the award the staff as one stood and clapped. I continue to be extremely proud to be the principal of St Gregory’s and to work with such inspiring and dedicated people.

We are now in the 4th week of Lent. The theme of the readings at Mass last Sunday was – ‘GOD LOVED THE WORLD SO MUCH.’ Lent is the time when we are encouraged to reflect on our failings. To acknowledge the ways in which we have failed to respond to our call to follow Jesus. When we do this however we need to be assured that our God is infinitely rich in mercy and grace. A God who sent his son into this world not to condemn but to be our saviour.

The first stage of turning to our God is indeed to acknowledge our failings. However the most important step, the one that many fail to follow, is to accept the healing and forgiveness from Christ. Forgiving others is somehow so much easier than forgiving ourselves. The self-acceptance and deep inner peace that comes when we stand before our God and accept with an open heart his love and forgiveness is a gift beyond measure.

May you recognise the God moments in your life,

Claire Frazer
Principal

Capital Funding – Facts

• In 2014, NSW’s 584 Catholic schools educated 21% of NSW students but only received 2% of the NSW Government capital funding for schools.
• The NSW Government provides $7.6 million in capital grants to Catholic schools – or $30 per student
• In 2012, the NSW Government capped its capital funding to non-government schools. But enrolments have continued to grow by 10 000 students – the equivalent of 12 new secondary schools or 400 new classrooms.
• The $7.6 million provided by the NSW Government in 2014 was only enough to part-fund seven of the 39 Catholic school building projects which sought funding that year.
• NSW Catholic schools educate almost 254 000 students and will need to accommodate a further 58 000 students by 2031 – the equivalent of more than 2 300 additional classrooms.
• Catholic school parents fund the bulk of capital works projects in their children’s schools through Catholic school building levies and the repayment of loans. But the rising cost of land, construction and technology mean that parents cannot shoulder this burden to the same extent indefinitely.
From the Principal…….

PRAYERS: Please keep in your prayers Matthew Muir (6 Blue) on the death of his Grandfather last week. We keep in our prayers the members of our community who are sick. Please pray for the people of Vanuatu following the devastating cyclone.

CONGRATULATIONS: To the following Year 6 students who have been appointed as Library Monitors at MacQuoid – Grace Black, Thomas Donohue, Tom Duus, Ben Herr, Archisa Meeson, Jessica Reid, Gabby Reynolds, Lauren Russell and James Taloni. I am very proud that so many of our Year 6 students are eager to take on leadership roles in our school.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS’ SOCCER CARNIVAL: Congratulations to the Year 3/4 team that participated in the Catholic Schools’ Carnival last Sunday. The team, Emmett Smith, Thomas Hatchman, Domenic Staltari, Leo Vanderpol, Finn Beasley, Brayden Verran, Giselle Arona, Jacob De Landre-Line, Aaron Ciuffetelli, William Bate, Kelven Ng and Marcos Gagliardi played very well and won 3 games and had a draw for the 4th. Well done to all involved especially Nick and Luca Gagliardi for managing and coaching. I would like to publically apologise for my lack of attendance at the Carnival on Sunday and the fact that arrangements were not in place to ensure that the school shade structure was available.

WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY: Congratulations to the students of 4Gold and 4White on the presentation of their assembly last Friday. They certainly made it very clear to us how we are to be signs of God’s forgiveness to all. My thanks to the teachers Amanda Ducker and Ben Mockler. Special thanks and congratulation to our ACU student teacher Dane Spencer.

KIDSMATTER: The next set of brochures is about Children’s emotions. The first one gives advice as to how we can make sense of children’s emotions.

PARENT WORKSHOPS: Thank you to the parents who were able to attend the workshops on offer last week, Catholic Schools Week. I appreciate that those with work commitments were unable to attend and it is our intention to offer the workshops again during the evening. Some of the feedback from parents who attended - Thank you for everything that you have done and continue to do for my son and all the other children that you help. The numeracy session yesterday was great too. I just wanted to say thank you for the literacy briefing. I am very grateful for all of the support and guidance your team at St Gregory’s provides. I am extremely confident that St Gregory’s is the best place for my children. I think the education you are providing is a cut above the rest.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS: Next week teachers will be available for interviews. Students are welcome to attend these interviews if parents feel that would be beneficial. There is some wisdom particularly in the upper grades to have the students involved in discussions about their learning. Bookings can be made online. Click on the following link or on the PTO logo on the school website. https://bookings.parentteacheronline.com.au?school=s8qbe Letters have been posted to families with their PIN. Please contact Julie Wiley if you have not received this letter. If this week is not suitable please contact the classroom teacher directly to set an alternative time for a meeting. Teachers are generally available in the mornings from 8:30am and after school till 4:30pm provided they do not have a duty or are not involved in meetings.

SWIMMING PROGRAM SURVEY: Our Swimming Survey will close at the end of this week. To date, over 150 families have participated in the survey. The comments we have received are extremely valuable and informative. Thank you to those who have responded. https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/XW2D5T6

SCHOOL COUNCIL: I am pleased to advise that we have had three nominations for the vacancies on the School Community Council. Catherine Russell, mum of Aila McDonald (K Blue), Bruce Taloni dad of James (6 Blue), Peter (4 Gold) and Sarah (1 Red) and Adam Cunningham dad of Mailey (4 Blue) and Cadence (1 White). The Constitution allows for this many to join the Council so there will be no need for an election process. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 31st March where the executive positions (Chair, Deputy Chair, Treasurer and Secretary) will be elected. In the newsletter following that meeting a full list of the council members and their roles will be published.
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!

**LIBRARY NEWS**

**LOWE STREET BOOK FAIR** Thank you to all those who attended our Book Fair. Our prizes will be handed out on Tuesday morning at Lowe St and the results published in next week’s Newsletter.

**PREMIERS READING CHALLENGE** It is not too late to register. Flyers with registration details can be found on the school website under the Notes tab (http://stgregsps.nsw.edu.au/notes/). I worked on PRC registrations all last week and have emailed home all user names and passwords for students who were already registered. New registrations eg Kinder and students who have never participated before have been processed, however, the DET website is experiencing problems and I am still waiting for the user name and passwords. As soon as they are received they will be emailed to you. I will also be emailing our first PRC Newsletter on Monday to help you get started. 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

**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 Tues 24 & Wed 25 March at MacQuoid St and on Thurs 26 March at Lowe St. Anything left over will be used for the cross country carnival on the Friday. Thank you - Lauren Macdonald, REC.

**SPORTS NEWS**

**SWIMMING CARNIVAL AGE CHAMPIONS** Congratulations to the following students who were presented with their swimming medals on Friday.

- Junior Girls – Angelina Brown
- Runner Up – Skyla Robinson-McEvoy
- Junior Boys – Ryan Weatherby
- Runner Up – Emmett Smith
- 11yrs Girls – Jasmine Burns
- Runner Up – Shania Settin
- 11yrs Boys – Ned Bennett
- Runner Up – Toby Goodyer
- Senior Girls – Jasmyn Tozer
- Runner Up – Giaan Ashman
- Senior Boys – Sam Robinson
- Runner Up – Adam Da Silva

**Catholic Schools Soccer Carnival** - St Greg’s FC Year 3/4 team did St Gregory’s proud at the Catholic Schools soccer carnival at UC on Sunday. Congratulations to our Year 3/4 representatives. We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Nick and Luca Gagliardi for giving up their Sunday and generously donating their time to coach and manage the team who drew one game and won three of its four games convincingly. A special thanks to Nick for encouraging our ex-St Gregory’s siblings to take ownership for coaching decisions - Luca did a sterling job, ably guided by Seth and Trai Beasley with strategy and positioning recommendations. It was wonderful to see the group of dedicated parents, siblings and extended family members on the sidelines setting the positive atmosphere and cheering on their formidable team. It was fabulous to watch the team members with all hands joined in the middle of a circle, initiate their school spirit with the “2, 4, 6, 8 who do we appreciate?..St Greg’s” chant. Comradeship, great skills, perseverance and amazing sportsmanship were displayed by our young ambassadors. Well done!

**ICAS COMPETITIONS**

The UNSW is offering students an opportunity to participate in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS). ICAS is an annual skills development assessment program in key areas of learning for students in Years 2-12. Assessments are available in Digital Technologies, English, Mathematics, Science, Spelling and Writing.

ICAS gathers performance information through a 30-60 minute supervised in-school test. These tests are voluntary.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Digital Tech (Yrs3-6)</td>
<td>$8-00</td>
<td>Tuesday, 19 May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science (Yrs2-6)</td>
<td>$8-00</td>
<td>Wednesday, 3 June</td>
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<td>Writing (Yrs3-6)</td>
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<td>Monday, 15 June</td>
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<td>Spelling (Yrs3-6)</td>
<td>$11-00</td>
<td>Tuesday, 16 June</td>
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<td>English (Yrs2-6)</td>
<td>$8-00</td>
<td>Tuesday, 28 July</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics (Yrs2-6)</td>
<td>$8-00</td>
<td>Tuesday, 11 August</td>
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If you would like to register your child please complete the registration form and return it, along with your entry fees, to school by **Friday, 27 March, 2015** - Erin Taylor, Administration Coordinator.
WORLD MATH DAY

12th March 2015

What a wonderful day of celebration we had at St Gregory’s on Thursday working in groups to investigate and explore Mathematical concepts and questions. Classes explored NUMBER at work using cards, computers, dominoes, dice and quiz games…they investigated 2D shape and 3D objects in the environment, made them out of toothpicks and photographed them on the iPads…..There was lots of excitement across the whole school and everyone had a fabulous time.

Suggested Math websites for K-6:
www.studyladder.com.au
www.mathplayground.com

Recommended iPad/Tablet apps for K-3:
Counting Board, Friends of Ten, Make 10 Plus, Place Value, Math Bingo.

CANTEEN

Helpers at Lowe Street this week are:
Thursday 19 March  Michelle Welch
Friday 20 March  Tamara Palmer

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

ITALIAN

To the Parents/Carers of Year 5 and 6 students.

This year the school is trialling a language program called “Language Perfect” for students in Years 5 and 6. This is an online self directed learning tool, which will serve as a great learning opportunity for students to increase their vocabulary. This week students will be given their login details for the program. They will be able to access the program anytime at school and at home - Lorena Nesa, Italian Teacher.

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 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 6299 4611 if you can help.

OUR SCHOOL RULES

Stay Safe,
Be Fair,
Show Respect.
**MERICI COLLEGE**

OPEN DAY: Wednesday 6 May 2015 9.30am to 7.00pm
Come and see the College in action!

INFORMATION EVENINGS:
For Year 7 Students for 2016
Tuesday 12 May 2015 6.00pm-7.15pm

For Year 11 Students for 2016
Thursday 14 May 2015 6.00pm-7.15pm
Careers Expo from 4.00pm

Wise Street Braddon – Ph: 6243 4100 – Fax: 6243 4199
Visit our website at www.merici.act.edu.au or contact the Enrolment Officer on email patricia.ryan@merici.act.edu.au

**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

**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

**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.

**YMCA QUEANBEYAN - POSITION VACANT**

The YMCA Queanbeyan After School Care program is currently looking for staff to work within it’s programs which operate from 4 school sites within the Queanbeyan region. Each program operates from the YMCA core values of instilling honesty, caring, responsibility and respect with all children who attend our After School Care and our Holiday Programs.

YMCA OSHC Programs form a vibrant and essential part of our schools’ communities. Our unique approach to programming, community links and commitment to children and their families who utilise our service are our real point of difference.

The YMCA Queanbeyan aims to provide a warm, safe and nurturing environment.

Qualifications: Certificate III in Childcare • First Aid Certificate • NSW Working with Children number
Desired: • Diploma or training towards •

Please send resume to Queanbeyan YMCA
Email: qbnymca@bigpond.com
Phone: 02 6297 2334

**NOTICEBOARD**

Queanbeyan Festival of Ability 2015
28th March Queanbeyan Park
Free Children's Activities 10am-12pm
Face painting - Cricket - Bubble table - Jumping castle - Games
LIVE PERFORMANCES Stage area 10am-2pm
Bring your picnic rug for a family day out.
BBQ available on the day. Let's celebrate ability!