



ST GREGORY'S QUEANBEYAN NEWSLETTER

Week Four, Term Two, 2015
12 May, 2015



Share the Spirit....

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last Tuesday evening the parents of children preparing for First Eucharist were invited to attend an information night held in our school hall. I don't think many were expecting to be offered a beverage on arrival and to find cheese and bread on the table. Not to mention a small take home gift. Eucharist is about community, it is about meeting with friends, it is about finding support and sustenance and it is about sharing a meal. Fr. Troy and those who planned the evening wanted this to be the emphasis.

Going to Mass is not about fulfilling an obligation. Sadly for many this is exactly how it feels. For many years my mum accompanied my dad to home Raiders games. Now my mum quite likes the game but for dad it is a passion. Going to the game meant being there at 10:30am to watch all 3 grades. It meant focussing on what was happening (not being interrupted by my mum for idle conversation) it meant being totally involved in what was happening. Needless to say for my mum it was more like an obligation. Sadly dad is no longer mobile enough to go to the games however he still watches all three grades and following the win on the weekend he has watched a replay, at last count, 3 times.

Some people feel that they don't get anything out of Mass – that somehow it should be entertaining. I will stick with my football analogy – the more you understand the intricacies of the game the more it means to you.

As Catholics we believe that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist, it is not a symbol of the presence of Jesus it is Jesus here with us. This is not something that we can understand it is the gift of faith that makes it real for us. It is because I know that I will meet Jesus intimately every time I receive Eucharist that I go to Mass, not out of a feeling of obligation but a feeling of needing Jesus to be present within me. The way we build any relationship is to be in deep communication, in our time of prayer we need to listen more and speak less, Jesus is constantly inviting us to come to him in love.

"In the Eucharist, Christ is always renewing His gift of self, which He made on the Cross," the pope said. "His whole life is an act of total sharing of self out of love."

"It is so important to go to Mass on Sunday," Pope Francis spontaneously added to the text of his February 5 audience, "not just to pray, but to receive Communion. It is a beautiful thing to do," he said, for Sunday is "precisely the day of the resurrection of the Lord. That is why Sunday is so important to us."

Pope Francis



May you recognise the many blessings you receive each day,

Claire

**Claire Frazer
Principal**

IMPORTANT EVENTS

Monday 4 May - Friday 22 May
Catholic Schools 2016 Enrolment period

Tuesday 12 May
NAPLAN - Years 3 & 5

Wednesday 13 May
NAPLAN - Years 3 & 5

Thursday 14 May
NAPLAN - Years 3 & 5

Thursday 14 May
Advanced Life Family Portraits collection
Parish Centre, MacQuoid Street

Thursday 14 May
Year 4 Mass
12:45pm St Gregory's Church

Friday 15 May
Whole School Assembly (1Red/1Gold/1White)
12:30pm St Gregory's Hall

Saturday 16 May
Eucharist Commitment Mass
5:30pm St Raphael's Church

Sunday 17 May
Eucharist Commitment Mass
9am St Raphael's Church

Monday 18 May
Second Hand Clothing Pool Open
9am to 10am Lowe Street MPR

Tuesday 19 May
ICAS Digital Technologies Competition

Wednesday 20 May
Archdiocesan Cross Country
Stromlo Forest Park

Thursday 21 May
Year 5 Mass
12:45pm St Gregory's Church

Friday 22 May
Catholic Schools 2016 Enrolment period ends

Sunday 24 May
Year 3 Sports Morning
11am to 1pm Queanbeyan Indoor Centre

Monday 25 May
Second Hand Clothing Pool Open
9am to 10am Lowe Street MPR

Monday 25 May
Open Book Afternoon - 4pm to 6pm



Focus Value for May - "Making Good Choices"

From the Principal.....

PRAYERS: Please keep in your prayers Rita Pelle and her family. Rita is a Learning Support Assistant and also works in the parish, especially in organising sacraments. Rita's twin sister died on the weekend following a battle with cancer. Please keep the Watson family (Sophia - 3 Red and Charlie - 1 Red) in your prayers on the death of their Grandmother.

CONGRATULATIONS: To all who represented St Gregory's at the Northern Region Cross Country last Thursday in Crookwell. I understand that the weather conditions were as normal for Crookwell – cold and blowing a gale. My thanks to Matt Maloney, Brad Brown and Ben Mockler who accompanied the team. Special thanks to the parents who made the journey to support the students.

NAPLAN: The annual NAPLAN testing for Australian students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 began today. Our Year 3 and 5 students sat the Language Convention and Writing Tests (40 Minutes each) Tomorrow Year 3 will have a 45 minute and Year 5 a 50 minute Reading test. On Thursday it is the Numeracy Test. As you might imagine this can be a very stressful time for the students. As a school we do all we can to encourage them to do their best.

WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY: All are welcome to join us for our Whole School Assembly this Friday beginning at 12:30pm. Year 1 Lowe Street will be hosting our assembly and the focus will be "Counting our Blessings".

SCHOOL REGISTRATION: Next Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th May a panel of seven will be visiting the school for our registration visit. This registration visit occurs every five years. The panel will be looking to check that we are meeting all our compliance requirements, they will be looking at our teaching and learning programs, assessment records, various policies, timetables and visiting classrooms. The panel will be meeting with Fr. Troy, staff and students. On Tuesday afternoon the panel will also meet with parent representatives – School Community Council members and Class Contacts. The Registration process provides us with an opportunity to celebrate our successes and provides direction for our next 5 years of planning. The Panel Members are: Lyn Smith (Chair) CE (Catholic Education), Maree Williams (CE), Helen Casey (CE), Katrina McGrath (CE), Marylou Gorham (Acting Principal Murrumburrah), Geraldine Holland (Assistant Principal Temora) and Graham Pollard (Principal Amaroo).

PARENT CONTACTS: Many thanks to the parent who has volunteered to take on the role of class contact for 1 Blue. This means that 24 of our 26 classes now have a class contact – thank you! There are still calls for volunteers for 6Gold and 6White.

KAYE LOWE WORKSHOP: There was a great response to the workshop and the feedback from parents has been extremely positive. During the workshops Kaye referred to her website. Just to remind parents, the website is www.read4success.com.au. Click on the Advice For Parents tab and then you can go to Strategies for Struggling Readers.



KIDSMATTER: This week the brochure is about Social Development. Social development involves learning the values, knowledge and skills that enable children to relate to others effectively and to contribute in positive ways to family, school and the community. Developing social skills is a lifelong journey and it is never too late to develop skills so that our lives are more fulfilling and enjoyable.

PRIMARY COEDUCATION: In the past some families have decided to send their boys after Year 3 to single sex schools to complete their primary education. I respect without hesitation parents right to choose the type of education for their children. I also agree that for some boys it is better for them. However I don't believe that parents should feel that they need to move sons in order to confirm a place in high school, this is not a good reason to make a decision about schooling. I have taught in a single sex male school including primary school grades. Some of the things I think they missed out on include – book week parades, class assemblies, working with younger classes, interaction with girls, buddying with younger students, exercising authentic leadership, being the eldest students in a school. Please contact me if you would like to discuss further.



LIBRARY NEWS

PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

Congratulations to the following students who have finished this week Seth Marsden KBlue, Eva Rowley 2Blue, Blake Meadley 3Blue and Hayden Meadley 4Gold. We have a total of 254 students participating, 113 are already completing online recording and 33 have completed - a great start!! 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/>). Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have trouble with your logon. Any questions can be directed to rosalind.wythes@cg.catholic.edu.au Thank you - Rosalind Wythes, Library Assistant.



ACCELERATED READING WORD MILLIONAIRE

Congratulations to Rose Taylor 4White on joining the exclusive club.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

St Gregory's School communicates with parents by various means.

The **Newsletter** is uploaded to the school website on Tuesday each week (<http://stgregsps.nsw.edu.au/newsletter/>). It is also emailed to many families. If you are not receiving the newsletter by email and would like to, please contact Jane King on 6297 2221 or email jane.king@cg.catholic.edu.au or complete the tear off slip on the back of this newsletter.



We also have the **St Gregory's Skoolbag App**, which is a smart phone mobile app through which the school can communicate directly with iPhone and Android devices. The newsletter, notes, alerts, information, instant messages and reminders are updated regularly on Skoolbag. We encourage all families to download the App. To install, search for our school name "St Gregory's School Queanbeyan" in either the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.



Twitter @stgregsqbn enables the school to broadcast short messages about events happening during the day, updates on school excursions, camps and sporting events.



In addition, an **online calendar** listing school activities and special events is available on the school website. Calendar dates are also listed in the Important Events section on the front page of the newsletter each week.

CANTEEN

Helpers at Lowe Street this week are:

Thursday 14 May

Erika O'Brien

Friday 15 May

Leesa Hughes

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

MOTHER'S DAY STALL

Thank you to the parent volunteers who assisted with the Mother's Day Stall. The students had a great time carefully choosing gifts. Over \$2,300 was raised! This money will now be used to establish the Gwen Bell Rose Garden at Lowe Street.

Congratulations to our raffle winners:

Matilda Howell (2 Red), James De landre Line (5 White), Cameron McInnes (2 Gold), Grace Kobak (1 White), Logan Summerell (2 Red), Layla Smith (1 White), Thomas Cunningham (5 Red) and Marian Wells.

ADVANCED LIFE PHOTOS



A reminder the Advanced Life Photographer will be at MacQuoid Street on Thursday this week for you to view and collect your family photographs. He will be located in the Parish Centre. Congratulations to the Willis-Callahan family on winning the FREE package.

JUVENILE DIABETES

The sweetest way to raise awareness and funds for type 1 diabetes *Jelly Babies*

Jelly Babies - it's the sweetest way to raise awareness and funds for type one diabetes. For only \$2:00 you can support medical research to help improve the lives of over 120,000 Australian kids and adults living with type one diabetes. To support the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation St Gregory's School will be selling jelly babies packets at the offices for \$2:00.

OUR SCHOOL RULES

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

YEAR 6 MASS

I had the pleasure of attending the Year 6 Mass on Thursday with the theme of "Mary our Mother" in honour of Mothers Day. As usual our Year 6 students were exemplary with their behavior and reverence. Thanks to the Year 6 teachers for their preparation. Special thanks to Connie Black and City Florist for their donation of flowers as gifts to our Mother figures - Lauren Macdonald, REC.



ENROLMENT PERIOD

Monday, 4 May until Friday, 22 May 2015

Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn
**ST GREGORY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
 QUEANBEYAN**



*Come along and discover what
 St Gregory's School can offer your child!*
 Enrolment forms available from either School Office:
 Lowe St Campus Ph: 6297 1396
 MacQuoid St Campus Ph: 6297 2221
www.stgregsps.nsw.edu.au
 Students enrolling in Kindergarten must turn 5 years of age by 30 April, 2016

NOTICEBOARD

NetSetGo Netball Skills Program 5-7 Years

ANZ NetSetGO has been developed to provide children from 5 to 7 years with the best possible learning and playing experience to develop a positive introduction to netball incorporating lots of skill activities, games and fun. The skills program runs for 45 mins on Saturdays from 1:30pm commencing 23rd May to 15th August. Registration is \$90 and each participant receives a t-shirt, netball and participation medal. For more info or to register email sunrisesecretary@outlook.com

QUEANBEYAN JUNIOR BASKETBALL



Commencing 8th May 2015
 Fridays 4.30-5.30pm
 Ages: 4-10yrs
 Cost: \$85 includes basketball pack
 7 weeks clinic
 Venue: Queanbeyan Basketball Stadium
 Register now at www.aussiehoops.com.au



Supa Productions is presenting a production of The King and I at the ANU Arts Centre in the Sept/Oct school holidays. We are looking for children aged 6 and over who are interested in auditioning for the children's chorus of princes and princesses. If you like singing, acting and dancing then we'd love to hear from you. An information session for children and parents will be held on Saturday 16 May at 2:30pm at Cook Community Hub, Templeton Street, Cook. Full information is available on our website at www.supaproductionsinc.com

MERICI COLLEGE



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

INFORMATION EVENING: 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

Experience quality property service

For all your property needs contact **Alex Dennison**, your local agent and past St. Gregory's student.



PETER BLACKSHAW
MARKETING QUALITY PROPERTY

Queanbeyan & Jerrabomberra

0434 484 393 | adennison@peterblackshaw.com.au

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

(Please return this slip to your child's class teacher)

I would like to receive the weekly newsletter by email please.

Email:.....
(please print clearly)

Eldest Child's Name:.....Class:.....