



ST GREGORY'S QUEANBEYAN NEWSLETTER

Week Nine, Term Two, 2015
16 June, 2015



Share the Spirit....

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that we are now in the second last week of Term 2! I am sure I am not alone in wondering where the time has gone. In the last couple of weeks I have had the great privilege of interviewing families who are seeking enrolment for their children at St Greg's. Parents who are enrolling their eldest child express disbelief that they are now enrolling their baby into big school.

This has caused me to reflect on how important it is to live each moment. Too often I am looking forward – to the end of the day, the end of the week, the end of the term, the end of the year! What about the right now – the person who is standing in front of me – the interaction that God has put before me this moment. Last week I had the amazing gift of spending a day in Galong. This allowed me to spend some time reflecting on my role as the principal of a Catholic Primary School.

Those facilitating the time at Galong provided some different readings to guide our reflection and I would like to share some excerpts from a reading adapted from the book 'Reaching Out' by Henri Nouwen.

In our world full of strangers, estranged from their own past, culture and country; from their neighbours, friends and family, from their deepest self and their God, we witness a painful search for a hospitable place where life can be lived without fear and where community can be found. The movement from hostility is hard and full of difficulties. Our society seems to be increasingly fearful and defensive, inclined to look at their surrounding world with suspicion, always expecting an enemy to suddenly appear, intrude and do harm.

At first the word 'hospitality' might evoke the image of soft sweet kindness, tea parties, bland conversations and a general atmosphere of cosiness. The biblical stories help us to realise not just that hospitality is an important virtue, but even more that in the context of hospitality guest and host can reveal their most precious gifts and bring new life to each other.

During enrolment interviews with families that are already have children at St Gregory's I ask them for feedback about our school. The most common positive feedback is around the sense of community that they experience. I believe that our sense of community – our Christian community – should be the thing that identifies our school as different to all the other schools in Queanbeyan. How wonderful it is to strive to build our sense of community so that as individuals we can 'reveal our most precious gifts and bring new life to each other'.

An old man told his grandson,
"My son, there is a battle between
two wolves inside us all."

"One is Evil. It is anger, jealousy, greed,
resentment, inferiority, lies and ego.
The other is Good. It is joy, peace,
love, hope, humility, kindness,
empathy and truth."

The boy thought about it,
and asked,
"Grandfather, which wolf wins?"

The old man quietly replied,
"The one you feed."



May your precious gifts be revealed to you,

Claire
Claire Frazer
Principal

IMPORTANT EVENTS

Wednesday 17 June
Sullivan Shield Round 2 - Kambah

Thursday 18 June
ICAS Writing Competition

Monday 22 June
CPS Rugby Trials - Forbes

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

My Body My Life Year 5 night
7pm St Gregory's Hall

Tuesday 23 June
School Council Meeting
6pm Lowe Street Staffroom

Wednesday 24 June
Year 6 volunteers to George Forbes House
11:15am to 1:15pm

Semester One Reports sent home

Bookings OPEN for optional Parent/Teacher
Interviews

Thursday 25 June
Year 3 Mass - 12:45pm St Gregory's Church

Friday 19 June
Whole School Assembly (3 Gold & 3 Red)
St Gregory's Hall - 12:30pm

END OF TERM TWO

Monday 13 July
Pupil Free Day

Tuesday 14 July
Students return for Term 3

Tuesday 14 July - Friday 17 July
1 Red Parent/Teacher Interviews

Thursday 16 July
Year 2 and 1 Blue Prayer Liturgy
12:45pm St Gregory's Church

Friday 17 July
NSWPSSA Cross Country
Eastern Creek

Sunday 19 July
Pat Power 50th Anniversary Mass
St Raphael's Church



Focus Value for June - "Believe In Yourself"

From the Principal.....

PRAYERS: Please keep the children from Year 4 who received Eucharist for the first time last weekend in your prayers. My prayer is that they regularly go to the table of the Lord so Jesus can be with them intimately as a teacher and guide.

CONGRATULATIONS: Breen Fox has been appointed as the Acting Assistant Principal at St Michael's Kaleen for Terms 3 and 4. This is a wonderful professional opportunity for Breen and we wish her the very best in this new endeavour. Our loss is certainly a great gain for St Michael's and Breen will be very missed. We are currently organising staffing for Term 3 and arrangements will be advised as soon as they are finalised.

CONGRATULATIONS: Our warmest congratulations to Steff Ellis (5 White teacher) who has announced her engagement to Josh.

CONGRATULATIONS: to Mailey Cunningham (4 Blue) and Talia de Silva (4 White). As members of the Queanbeyan Roadrunners U12 Girls Basketball team, they came second in the NSW Country Basketball Tournament held in Bathurst over the long weekend. The team beat Dubbo, Bathurst, Goulburn, Gosford and only lost to Canberra in the grand final. As such, they are the second best team in country NSW. Well done!

TERM 3: I have applied and have had approved Long Service Leave for Term 3. During this time I will be attending a conference in Madrid on Formative Assessment and participating in a week long retreat in Dublin. There will of course be some sightseeing as well. During this time Mrs Julie Wiley will be acting, very ably, as Principal. Mrs Erin Taylor will be the acting Assistant Principal during this time. I am most grateful for this opportunity for professional and personal development.

WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY: The assembly to be presented by 3 Gold and 3 Red will now be held next Friday 26th June at 12.30pm. Spending time reflecting on the reasons we have for believing in ourselves will be a wonderful way to finish our term.

TRAFFIC MACQUOID STREET: There have been reports made of some dangerous practices that are occurring during drop off and pick up. Please do not double park to drop off or collect students, as well as holding up other traffic it is potentially very dangerous. Parents are also reminded to exercise extreme caution near the bus stop area on Molonglo Street. Please do not encourage children to walk between parked buses.

JUNE/JULY: As recommended by Sun Smart students are not required to wear sun safe hats whilst on the playground during the months of June and July.

SOCIAL MEDIA: The Computer Facilities and External Networks - Acceptable Use by System Staff policy issued by Catholic Education to staff requests that staff do not have parents as 'friends' on social media. Please do not be offended if your friend request is denied.



KIDSMATTER: The brochure this week outlines setting rules and limits for guiding children's behaviour.

SCHOOL PHOTOS: will be taken in summer uniform at the beginning of Term 4 this year. MacQuoid Street campus on Monday, 12 October and Lowe Street campus on Tuesday, 13 October. Sporting teams and cultural group photos will be taken on Friday, 6 November, 2015.



LIBRARY NEWS

PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

Congratulations to the following students who have finished this week James Mackenzie 4White and Yashmeen Dandiwal 2Blue. We have a total of 255 students participating, 139 are already completing online recording and 54 have completed - fantastic!!

The class pizza challenge is running. 1Red and 4 White are in front with 5 students completed. KWhite are runners up with 4 students completed.

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 or other queries - include your child's name and class. Any questions can be directed to rosalind.wythes@cg.catholic.edu.au

The PRC continues till August 21st when all online recording needs to be completed. However, some parents of students in Kindergarten and Year 1 have reported difficulties in completing the number of books required to qualify for the PRC completion certificate.

The following suggestions may help if this is the case in your family.

Firstly, parents are most welcome to come to the Lowe Street Library and read PRC books with their children after school between 3.00pm and 4.00pm each school day. These books are easily identified with the appropriate level stickers. If you are able to take up this opportunity on a day when Mrs Carroll is not present, please let another staff member know that you will be in the library.

Secondly, local town libraries are a valuable source of wonderful literature suitable to be included in the PRC. Most libraries are able to identify books included in the PRC through a labeling system.

Thirdly, books on the PRC reading list may also be in your home libraries. These of course will not be identified with labels. By going onto the Premier's Reading site at <https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html> and choosing 'Booklists' from the side menu you will be able to search for the titles of books you have read from your own home library.

Kindergarten students are only able to borrow 1 school library book each week. Students in Year 1 are able to borrow 3 books each week. Each student is encouraged to borrow a PRC book each week if they are in the challenge. However, we are not able to force students to borrow something if they really do not want to.

Important Rule for PRC Readers - PRC encourages students to read widely and it is for this reason that with the series books (eg, Zac Powers, My Australian story) on the PRC booklist you can only read any 2 books as PRC books. You can read up to 5 other books from the same series as Personal Choice books. Therefore a student can only read 7 books in one series for PRC and then only 2 from various series after this. Please remember this rule when recording online.
- Helen Carroll, Teacher Librarian & Ros Wythes, Library Assistant

ST VINNIES WINTER APPEAL



During the month of June, the Year 2 students and the St Greg's Mini Vinnies team is asking the whole school community to **DONATE** any **WINTER ITEMS** (blankets, beanies, scarves, jumpers, gloves, socks, sleeping bags, etc) and a **CAN OF FOOD** to help out the less fortunate families in our local Queanbeyan area. Please go through your wardrobes and cupboards and donate to this very worthwhile appeal. All items will be collected from classrooms each week, with the final collection on **Thursday 18th June**. Thank you for your support.

CANTEEN NEWS

Helpers at Lowe Street this week are:

Thursday 18 June

Friday 19 June

Help Needed Please

Bethany Butterfield

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

NSWPSSA RAFFLE

Josh Fahey is fundraising to support his selection in the NSW AFL team. A raffle book is at the office with tickets available to be purchased at \$2-00 each.

1st Prize: Laptop Notebook Computer

2nd Prize: LED TV

3rd Prize: Ipod shuffle

4th Prize: Ipod shuffle

5th Prize: Ipod shuffle

Drawn Monday 12th October

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

REGISTRATION - YEAR 6 CHILDREN

Parents of Year 6 students are invited to register their child for the Sacrament of Confirmation which will be celebrated in St Gregory's Parish, Queanbeyan on Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th September 2015.

The children must have already celebrated the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

Please log onto the parish website to download the necessary paperwork at:

<http://www.stgregorysparishqueanbeyan.com/sacred-room/sacraments/confirmation/>

Please download, complete and return the registration form to stg.sacramental@cg.catholic.org.au

Please print out the schedule of events and keep it handy for important dates in preparation for this sacrament. Payment of \$40 can be made via the online payment option at our parish website:

<http://www.stgregorysparishqueanbeyan.com/engine-room/online-payments/>

Please call the parish office on 62994611 if you have any further questions regarding this sacrament.

NB: Clash of dates with Confirmation & Wakakirri

The Confirmation dates are Tuesday 8th AND Wednesday 9th September, 2015.

The FINAL for Wakakirri awards are the 9th ONLY. We may not get in to the finals, but just in case parents may wish to choose the Tuesday for the sacrament!

Thank you - Lauren Macdonald REC.



NOTICEBOARD



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

St Gregory's Parish will be hosting their first ever Winter Sleep-out!

This will be done in collaboration with the St Vincent de Paul Society in Canberra. Open to all school children from Years 4-12.

The event will run from 5pm Friday 19th June until 9am Saturday 20th June.

See fliers at MacQuoid office with permission slip on the back.

Children without a signed permission slip and required donation, unfortunately will not be allowed to attend.

Contact: William Mathieson's Mobile: 0403 614 911

Volunteers are required to cook and supply a pot of soup for this event. Please let the parish know if you are able to help out - 6299 4611. Thank you.



Free School Holiday Craft Morning

WHERE: The SaCC building, in the grounds of Queanbeyan Public School, Isabella St

WHEN: Thurs 9th July
10am-12pm

BRING: Nut-free morning tea

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
Kellie on 0427415917 OR Brooke on 6297 2167
For families with children 0-5 yrs and their older siblings



ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

(Please complete and return this note to the office)

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

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

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



2016 ENROLMENTS

Please complete and return this note to the office if your child (except Year 6 students) is not returning to St Gregory's School in 2016. Thank you.

My child/ren.....

in class/es.....will not be returning to St Gregory's School in 2016.

He/She/They will be attending
(please insert name of school)

Signed:.....Parent/Guardian Date:.....