Dear Parents and Carers,

This week is Week 5 - we are nearly half way through the term and ramping up towards the last half of Term 3. We have quite a few community events on this term. On Sunday we celebrated 175 years as a parish. It was a fantastic event where the parishioners and school came together to pray and celebrate.

Not all students (and adults for that matter) cope very well with disruptions and added social events. This term we have camps, Wakakirri, St Greg’s Day, Father’s Day breakfast, Trivia Night, Singfest, excursions and swimming lessons, to name a few. We have been working closely with our students this term, establishing and reinforcing leadership from the ground up.

As you know we are a KidsMatter school and this year we have been continuing on our KidsMatter journey. KidsMatter is a mental health and wellbeing framework for schools and is proven to make a positive difference to the lives of children. We are up to Component 3 of the program, which involves developing collaborative working relationships with parents. Staff have been participating in professional development this year on how they can work in partnership with the community to develop cooperative school-home relationships.

The Cuppa at the Gate initiative held recently is an example of this. It was a great opportunity for parents to communicate with the School Community Council and teachers on a deeper level. Through many of the events listed above we know we will be working with parents to ensure the events run smoothly and are well attended. The Yr 5 teachers could not do Wakakirri without the expertise and creative support of many parents who assist so the students are able to participate at such a professional level. I could explain further the opportunity for home/school connections with all the other events but I would need more space!

At St Gregory’s we value the support and generosity of all our community members. We can always improve in what we do and we are always open to feedback and ideas. We do strive to be the best we can be and ensure we have the student’s best interests at the forefront of what we do. I think that’s what makes our school truly Catholic.

May peace be in your families,

Julie Wiley
Principal (Acting)
Focus Value for August - “Learn From Our Mistakes”

From the Principal......

PRAYERS: The Agius family (Patrick KRed) – Baby Alexis needs our prayers. Prayers also please for the Vangageldonk family (Mya 5Gold). Mya’s brother, Jacob, has been diagnosed with Hodgkins lymphoma.

CONGRATULATIONS and all the best to our school representatives at the Northern Region Public Speaking competition tomorrow - Emily Quan, Olivia Smith, Lachlan Fitzpatrick, Jacob McMahon, Eden D’Souza, Euan Celaya, William Hales and Aimee Perrett. I know you will represent St Gregory’s with great pride.

Congratulations also to Mr Ryan Matchett for being selected by Catholic Education to attend World Youth Day in Poland next year. Very well deserved!

THANK YOU: to all our teachers and families for attending the 175th St Gregory’s Parish Celebrations on Sunday. It was so wonderful to see your support and community spirit. Special thanks to Mr Ryan Matchett and Mrs Kate McManus-Green for all their ‘behind the scenes’ work.

AUGUST THEME: Learning From Our Mistakes - It’s important to know the difference between mistakes and bad decisions. Mistakes are simple errors, like reading a map incorrectly and taking the wrong exit. Bad decisions are more intentional, like taking the scenic route to a meeting and inconveniencing the other person by being late. Mistakes are understandable and may require less focus on correcting. You should accept bad decisions just like mistakes, but it pays to pay more attention to them.

KIDSMATTER: Children and Hardship - Providing children with an environment that demonstrates love, compassion, trust, and understanding will greatly impact a child so that they can build on these stepping stones to have a productive lifestyle. Some children have to deal with a childhood that is filled with angst, resentment, hatred, distrust, and constant negativity. They have a difficult time coping with their emotions. Having support from family, friends and school can help protect children’s mental health and build resilience to help them cope with challenges.

CHEWING GUM: Please remind your children they are not to bring chewing gum to school. Thank you.

WOOLWORTHS EARN AND LEARN: You can help our school by collecting Woolworths Earn & Learn stickers when you shop at Woolworths. We will redeem these points for educational resources. Simply drop them into school or the Collection Box at Woolworths, Queanbeyan. Thank you.

EQUIPMENT AT LOWE STREET: A reminder to parents that the play equipment at Lowe Street is out of bounds before and after school. Thank you for your cooperation. The upgrade of the equipment and grass area at Lowe Street is about to commence. The grass side will be fenced off during the works. Access to classrooms will still be available. The funds raised from last year’s walkathon are going towards this project, as well as a generous donation of money from the School Community Council.

HATS ARE BACK: Since we are now in the month of August, students need to wear their hats when playing outside. Any students not wearing their hat will be asked to sit in a shaded area.

ICAS MATHS COMPETITION: Please note will be held on Thursday, 13 August, 2015.
BOOK WEEK

Book Week 2015 is fast approaching! This year the Children’s Book Council of Australia is celebrating its 70th Anniversary of Book Week. This annual event which is celebrated in August each year highlights the importance of reading and draws on the joy of stories and creativity of Australian books. Book Week is about encouraging students to read; to learn about new books; to share favourite writers and illustrators; to look again at old favourite books in maybe a different way; to take time to be alone and just read.

This year’s theme is “Books Light up Our World”. Books light up our lives in many different ways. They can entertain us, educate us and empower us. Books allow us to travel to other parts of the world, experience how others live and venture into space or fantasy worlds. They build our strength and confidence as we gain new knowledge. This term’s library program will explore Book Week’s theme as a unit focus. Students will be exposed to a range of Children’s Book Council of Australia notable and shortlisted picture books in both print and audio-visual format during library and class lessons. Students will also engage in selected learning activities such as book reviews, craft based activities, and utilise new technology tools to promote their work.

Please note: Due to school camps, Book Week at MacQuoid St has been bought forward to Week 6. Lowe St will still be held in Week 7.

Book Character Dress up Parade:
MacQuoid Street on Monday 17th August at 9am.
Lowe Street on Wednesday 26th August at 9am.
Students are invited to help celebrate Book Week by coming dressed to school as their favourite book character. The parade will be held straight after morning assembly. Students are encouraged to try and bring in a matching book with them to be used as a discussion point in class. This will be a celebration and hence no prizes will be awarded.

MACQUOID ST BOOK WEEK COMPETITIONS - Students may choose to enter any of the following competitions:

1. CLASS DOOR POSTER: Some classes will be creating a door poster to celebrate Book Week’s theme ‘Books Light Up Our World’. The class judged as the most creative poster will be able to pick a movie from the Library’s collection to watch in class with popcorn provided. To be judged Friday of Week 6.

2. PHOTOGRAPHY: Have someone take a photo of you reading the book that lit up your world in a creative space. Name and class must be written on the back. Please submit to your teacher Friday of Week 5.

3. DRAWING: Draw character/s from the book that lit up your world using the light bulb template available from the Library. Make sure to write the title and author of the book outside the globe on the front. Name and class must be written on the back. Please submit to your teacher on Friday of Week 5.

4. GUESSING COMPETITION: Which book lit up which teacher’s world? Pick up an entry form from the Library during Week 6 and submit your entry to Mrs Greentree by Friday morning of Week 6.

5. QUOTE OF THE DAY: Each day during Week 6 a book quote will be added to the double library doors. Students must pick either which book it came from or who wrote it. Students may pick up entry forms from the Library during Week 6 and submit their entry to Mrs Greentree by Friday morning of Week 6.

LIBRARY NEWS

Only 11 days to go!!! Congratulations to the following who have finished the PRC:
- Phoebe Doyle K Gold
- Amelia Richardson 1 Gold
- Liam Doyle 4 Gold
- Meagan Shand 5 Gold
We have a total of 256 students participating, 217 are already completing online recording and 108 have completed - fantastic!!
We have our class pizza challenge running and 4 White are still in front with 20 students completed.
Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have trouble with your logon or any other queries - please include your child’s full name and class in any email. Any questions can be directed to rosalind.wythes@cg.catholic.edu.au

BOOK FAIR

Thank you to all those who visited our Book Fair. We are still finalising the Book Fair and will publish the winners in next weeks newsletter.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

The Library is a very busy place and to ensure smooth running of Library it would be great to have some parent volunteers. This term is extra busy in the lead up to Book Week (week 6). Jobs would include helping with new theme displays, covering books, shelving and tidying the library. We still also have lots of Accelerated Reader books and Premier’s Reading Challenge books to locate and label. If you could help us out at the MacQuoid Street campus on Mondays, Thursdays or Fridays, please email Melissa Greentree - melissa.greentree@cg.catholic.edu.au. Many thanks.

SKOOLBAG

We are pleased to announce that Skoolbag is now available for Windows Phones running version 8.1 of Windows, and Windows devices running Windows 8.1 or 10 (eg Surface tablet, Laptop, PC etc).
This makes the app even more accessible then before to our parent community, with the ability to receive messages directly to a PC, Laptop, or Surface Tablet running Windows 8.1 or 10.
To install Skoolbag on your Windows device, look up “Skoolbag” in the Windows Store, and install it. Once installed you can find your school, and pin it to your Windows Home Screen.
NB: You must be running at least Windows 8.1 on your device for the app to function.

CANTEEN NEWS

 Helpers at Lowe Street this week are:
 Thursday 13 August - Julie Worner
 Friday 14 August - Lyn Smith
Volunteers are always welcome at MacQuoid Street, even if you are only available for an hour. Thank you.
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:

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

(Please complete and return this note to the office)

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

Email:

Eldest Child’s Name: Class:

NOTICEBOARD

CLASS OF 1975 REUNION

A 40 year reunion will be held for students from Catholic Girls High School Braddon and Daramalan College who finished Year 12 in 1975 (including those from that group who finished before Year 12) from 6:30 pm on Saturday 12 September at the Mercure Canberra. Finger food will be provided; drinks at own cost. Bistro meals can also be purchased. RSVP by Friday 28 August on facebook: Dara-Braddon 1975 or email Mich: mcollopy@bigpond.net.au.

KARABAR PLAYGROUP

A FREE playgroup for families with children 0-5 years who live in Karabar.
Where: Family Day Care playroom, 181 Cooma Rd, Karabar (near the shops—use Queenbar Rd carpark)
When: Fridays 9:30am-11:30am during school terms
Why: Come along to meet other parents and carers, to play with your little one and help them develop lots of new skills in a fun and safe space.
Cost: $2 donation (Please bring a piece of fruit to share)
Contact: Kellie 0427 415 917 or Brooke 6297 2167

CONCERT FOR MYHOME IN CANBERRA

Featuring: Louise Page, Shiny Bum Singers, Warrani Choral and Canberra Madolin Orchestra.
M.C. Genevieve Jacobs, 666ABC Radio, Canberra
Saturday, 29 August, 2015
Holy Trinity School Hall, Theodore St, Curtin
2:30pm till 5pm: Tickets $25
Tickets are available via the Woden Rotary Club website www.wodenrotary.org.au

KARABAR PLAYGROUP

A FREE playgroup for families with children 0-5 years in Queanbeyan EAST
Help your child build important skills
Meet other local families
Connect with your community
Thursdays 9:30-11:30am during school terms in the Queanbeyan East PS multi-purpose room.
Please bring a snack for recess break.
More information contact Fiona Senior-Conroy on 6297 2619 or Kellie 0427 415 917.
ST GREG’S & HOME IN QBN TRIVIA NIGHT

SATURDAY 29TH AUG | 6:30PM | ST GREG’S HALL
$20pp | TABLES OF 10 | PRIZES, AUCTIONS & RAFFLES
BYO DRINKS & NIBBLES OR ORDER IN SOME DINNER

BOOK NOW
VIA MACQUOIID ST OFFICE
CALL JANIE ON 6297 2221

RAFFLE TICKETS ON SALE NOW
$10 PER TICKET | AVAILABLE AT THE FRONT OFFICE FROM NOW UNTIL OCTOBER 30
1ST – $1000 COLES MYER GIFT CARD
2ND – $500 COLES MYER GIFT CARD
3RD – $200 COLES MYER GIFT CARD
Trivia Night Raffle

$10 per ticket

1st prize $1000 Coles Myer Voucher
2nd prize $500 Coles Myer Voucher
3rd prize $200 Coles Myer Voucher

Tickets available from the school office

(If you would like to buy a ticket, please send money to school in an envelope with your name and contact details clearly marked)

Money raised going to St Greg’s and Home in Queanbeyan

Drawn at the disco on Friday 30th October, 2015