Dear Parents and Carers,

At St Greg's the students of Years 4, 5 and 6 participate in the Accelerated Reader (AR) program. This program was introduced to us by Melissa Greentree, one of our teacher librarians, who had used the program at a high school. It is fantastic tool for teachers.

AR is a computer program that helps teachers and librarians manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. Students select books at their level and read at their own pace. When the book is finished the student completes a quiz. Successful completion of the quiz is an indication that the student has understood the text. AR gives the students, teachers and librarians feedback based on the quiz results, which the teacher then uses to help students set goals and direct ongoing reading practice. Teachers and librarians help students choose books at an appropriate readability level that are challenging without being frustrating, ensuring that the students can pass the quiz and experience success.

The AR program encourages student success, it is not about being compared to others but rather about improving reading. The student can see their progress as they complete quizzes and earn points. To begin with AR the students complete the STAR reading test which is a computerised reading assessment that uses computer-adaptive technology. Questions continually adjust to the responses. If a response is correct, the difficulty level is increased. If a question is missed the difficulty level is reduced.

Parents are often seeking advice as to how they can assist their children to improve reading. As with anything, performance improves with practice. Encourage your child to read at home. Create a culture of reading in your household by reading with your child, starting a home library, visiting your local library or bookstore on a regular basis, letting your child see you reading, and discussing books that each of you has read. When reading with your child, stop and ask questions to be sure your child is comprehending what is read. Reading with your child, no matter what the child's age, is an important part of developing a good reader, building a lifelong love of reading and learning.

This year the staff have had the benefit of the expertise of Kaye Lowe for professional learning. Kaye also ran a very informative workshop for parents. One of the key points that Kaye makes is that children's reading is enhanced when the home works with the school. Kaye stresses the need to have joy as part of reading. I have included the following website in previous newsletters but it is worth repeating. Kaye will be working with our staff again in 2016. Check out the videos on her website. http://www.read4success.com.au/

Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it.
Charles R. Swindoll
From the Principal......

PRAYERS: Please keep in your prayers those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. We particularly pray for Kristi Lloyd whose grandmother died last week.

CONGRATULATIONS: To Kristy and Chris Poole whose daughter Aurora Jade was born last Thursday, 22nd October. Mum and baby are doing well. We look forward to meeting little Aurora soon. Congratulations also to the Carswell family (Grace Carswell - 1 Gold) on the birth of a baby boy, Benjamin.

ASSEMBLY: Congratulations to the students of 1Blue, 2Gold and 2Red and their teachers – Pam Brown, Michelle Hill, Greg Tarrant and Kelly Delaney on their assembly last Friday. They certainly showed us all how we can be generous in all we do. I love attending these assemblies and seeing the amazing talent of our students.

QCC: Last Friday during our Whole School Assembly Queanbeyan City Council received complaints from our neighbours about cars parking across driveways and on nature strips. I do appreciate that parking is limited but please be considerate of our neighbours. I am sure that if there was a next time the Rangers would be on patrol.

NSW CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BASKETBALL CARNIVAL: Congratulations to all students who participated in the carnival in Albury and thanks to the parents who made such a big commitment so that the students could participate. Thanks to Matthew Maloney who organised the teams and a huge thanks to Ryan Matchett who went way beyond the call of duty.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS NETBALL CARNIVAL: Congratulations to the two teams who participated in the carnival on Sunday. The girls played well and demonstrated excellent sporting prowess. Many thanks to the parents who attended especially those who had official roles. My special thanks to Kelly Menser and Stephanie Ellis who were in attendance all day. The girls looked very flash in the new netball uniforms.

WALKATHON: All monies raised by the students should be forwarded to school as soon as possible. We ask that all funds are returned by the end of October so that the final tally can be announced.

SCHOOL PARENT SURVEY: We believe that parent happiness and satisfaction are important. We are conducting an interactive survey of all parents to identify areas where we can be more effective as a school. Your response by Monday, 9 November, 2015 would be appreciated.

https://www.research.net/r/StGregorysSchoolParent2015

Responses are confidential and individuals can not be identified. Please be assured your responses are anonymous. Thank you in anticipation of your participation!

PRINCIPAL SYSTEM DAYS: I will be attending the Catholic Education Principal System days this Thursday and Friday. As well as hearing about the planning of Catholic Education for 2016 I will also learn of our staffing allocation for next year.

CatholicCare: Parents and Carers are invited to Bringing Up Great Kids – a parenting program developed by the Australian Childhood Foundation for Parents and Carers of children aged 2-10 years. The course is offered 3 hours a week over a 4 week period. Dates 28/10, 04/11, 11/11 and 18/11 – 6 to 9pm at CatholicCare 57 Hicks Street Red Hill. The fee is $100 with concessions available. If cost is prohibitive for you please contact me. Bookings essential 1800 068 698.

OCTOBER THEME: Be Generous In All You Do - When we are generous with our time, gifts and talents it helps us to be grateful. When we are grateful we are generous.
SPORT NEWS

BOOROWA TOUCH & NETBALL CARNIVAL - On Friday the 16th of October St Gregory’s sent 10 teams to the Boorowa Touch Football and Netball Carnival. The carnivals were for 5/6 age teams. All teams were commended for both their performance and their sportsmanship on the field and their manners off it. A massive thank you needs to go to our parents who managed teams throughout the day! Without your efforts, events such as this can’t take place and I know that our students greatly appreciated your guidance and support throughout the day - Matthew Maloney.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS NETBALL CARNIVAL - The Catholic Schools Netball Carnival was held at Calwell on Sunday and was a highly successful day for St Gregory’s. Our Year 5/6 team won their division remaining convincingly undefeated. Our Year 3/4 girls won their first six games, and came close to a draw in their final match. All girls showed incredible skill and sportsmanship throughout each game and were fantastic representatives of St Greg’s. Thank you to our parent helpers, in particular Mrs Lolesio and Mrs Dorsett for their coaching and umpiring skills! - Kelly Menser and Stephanie Ellis.

NSW CATHOLIC BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS
Well done to all students who competed at the Championships held over the weekend in Albury and Wodonga. All students played with great skill and enthusiasm, while displaying sportsmanship throughout the weekend. Our Senior Boys A team were runners up in Division 3; and played well as a team all weekend. After some tough losses on Saturday our Senior Boys B team were semi-finalists in Division 3 and played well as a team. Our Year 5/6 team won their division remaining convincingly undefeated. Our Year 3/4 girls won their first six games, and came close to a draw in their final match. All girls showed incredible skill and sportsmanship throughout each game and were fantastic representatives of St Greg’s. Thank you to our parent helpers, in particular Mrs Lolesio and Mrs Dorsett for their coaching and umpiring skills! - Kelly Menser and Stephanie Ellis.

LIBRARY NEWS

Author Buzz Reading Challenge
Last week and this week students in Kinder to Year 3 have been given the opportunity to take part in a reading challenge. If they have chosen to participate they will have brought home a form to complete. This will show their reading record until Week 8. We are discussing favourite authors and students have been asked to choose fiction books from their favourite authors for the challenge. There are so many inspiring children’s authors and this is a great opportunity to develop a love of reading through best literature. Books on the Premier’s Reading Challenge reading list can be added to the 2016 PRC challenge. All the necessary information for the challenge is on the reading form. Please return the completed form to school before the end of Week 8 for a chance to win a small prize.

New Clubs to Accelerated Reader
New initiatives to Accelerated Reader this term include the 50s and 100s clubs. Students in Year 4 to 6 can now reach new reading heights by completing quizzes at 85% or more. All students that make it into either of these clubs this term will receive recognition and also be invited to the same party as the millionaires. Students that have already become AR millionaires have not been included in the 50s or 100s clubs as they have already received recognition for reading efforts. New members of the 50sclub are Mailey Cunningham 5 Red and Lachlan Fitzpatrick 4 Blue.

Book Club
Lamont Book Club brochures have been distributed to students. Online orders close on Monday, 9th November.

PRINCIPAL AWARDS
Congratulations to the following students who received a Principal’s Award at the last whole school assembly.

K Blue - Lillian Howlett
K Gold - Jared Oldfield
K Red - Patrick Agius
K White - Jorjia Blakey
1 Blue - Thomas Keillor
1 Gold - Angus Edwards
1 Red - Tahlia Dunn
1 White - Alexa Burns
2 Blue - Seliana Zraika
2 Gold - Cameron McInnes
2 Red - Charlotte Murphy
2 White - Lucy Lasker
3 Gold - William Hales & Emily O’Grady
3 Red - Riley Minchin & Aimee Perrett
3 White - Alex Maher
4 Blue - Bharat Sharma
4 Gold - Audrey Keillor & Eleni Lolesio
4 Red - Angelina Nedeska
4 White - Ashley Hewson
5 Red - Wynn Hickey, Ethan Barac & Poovashee Allapin
6 Blue - Emily Quan
6 Gold - Joseph Kopec
6 White - Hevish Allapin
AR Millionaires - Katie Bissett
AR 100’s Club - Meaali Faatamala
Gold Band Award - Olivia Worthington
Angelina Celeska
**OUR SCHOOL RULES**

Stay Safe,  
Be Fair,  
Show Respect.

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**DISCO**

Entry tickets for Friday’s disco have been sent home with students today. Times are as follows:  
Kinder to Year 2 – 6:15pm to 7:15pm  
Year 3 to Year 6 – 7:30pm to 9:00pm

The School Council SAUSAGE SIZZLE will be held on the night from 6pm until 7:30pm. Sausage sandwiches available for a gold coin donation.

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**WASTE FREE WEDNESDAY**

Every Wednesday at St Gregory’s is now nude food day. You can do your bit to reduce this by packing a school lunch without any extra packaging or juice packs. Please support us by making Wednesdays ‘WASTE FREE’ day. Thanks for your help!

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**CANTEEN NEWS**

Helpers at Lowe Street this week are:  
Thursday 29 October     Erika O’Brien  
Friday 30 October       Leesa Hughes

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

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**Love Wakakirri?**

**Why not ‘Love It’ online?**

**Step 1. Go to the wakakirri web site:**


**Step 2. Find the photo for our school. It looks like this:**

![Wakakirri Logo](image)

**Step 3. Click on the “Love It” button.**

**Step 4. Tell everybody to “Love It” and pass on the message to anyone who can vote for us!**

You can do this on any device that has the internet. You can vote once a day, but hurry the winner will be announced soon. Get voting! Thank you – Year 5