Dear Parents and Carers,

Last Thursday and Friday I attended what is known as the Principal System Days. There were presentations by principal colleagues, Catholic Education Staff, and visiting guest speakers. Each session title began with – Every Child deserves.

The first session was Every Child Deserves …. An inclusive education. There was discussion about what inclusion means to the Canberra Goulburn Catholic Education System. As preparation for that session we were asked to read an article by John Swinton – From Inclusion to Belonging: A Practical Theology of Community, Disability and Humanness. I found the article provided many challenges to me as the leader of a Catholic Primary School. The term ‘disability’ is used often in a school setting and as the article points out it is a vague and complex concept.

What holds together the vast human experiences such as autism, schizophrenia, paraplegia, Alzheimer’s, hearing impairment, ADHD, multiple sclerosis, cystic fibrosis, Down’s syndrome, and makes them all disabilities? The simple answer is nothing!

To have a group labelled as disabled appears to imply that the individuals in that group are somehow different or not normal? This of course leads to the question – What is normal? It is a simple fact that there is no such thing as a normal human being, difference is the norm.

The article goes on to discuss that instead of talking of inclusion of those with disability we should instead be talking of the experience of belonging. As human beings we can be grouped by our similarities and differences but it is our humanness that makes us one.

So what does it mean to belong – put simply to belong you need to be missed. When we belong, people long for our presence in the same way that the father in the story of the prodigal son longed for his son’s return.

I would like to conclude by quoting directly from the conclusion of the article. ‘To be included you just need to be there; to belong you need to be missed; to miss one another we need to learn what it means to love with the passion of Jesus. And perhaps that is as good a definition of the calling of the church that we can get? It could be that in wrestling with the meaning of the term disability we actually discover the meaning of love. In discovering the meaning of love, we will learn what it means to encounter the God who is love and to live with that relational space of belonging that is opened up and offered to us in Jesus. Within that space disability might continue to exist, but it will not be negative. The love of Jesus overcomes all difference.’

Today there are 632 students at St Gregory’s, coming from 429 families and over 50 staff. Please take this the way it is intended when I say none of them are normal – there is no normal. One thing I am very certain of however is that they are all loved by God.

Sincerely,

Claire Frazer
Principal

FROM BELONGING TO BECOMING

WHAT IF WE PUT BELONGING FIRST LIKE JESUS DID?

IMPORTANT EVENTS

Monday 2 - Friday 13 November
Kinder and 1 Blue Swimming Lessons

Thursday 5 November
Year 3 walking tour of Queanbeyan excursion

Friday 6 November
Sporting Teams & Cultural Group Photos - MacQuoid Street
5 Gold, 5 Red, 2 Red & K Red to attend Parish Mass - 12pm St Raphael’s Church

Sunday 8 November
The Men from Snowy River march
Students assemble at 10:10am outside Council Chambers, Crawford Street

Monday 9 November
Second Hand Clothing Pool OPEN
9am to 10am Lowe Street MPR

Tuesday 10 November
School Council Meeting - 6pm Lowe St

Wednesday 11 November
Remembrance Day Liturgy (Years 2-6)
9:30am St Raphael’s Church
QCC Remembrance Day Ceremony
10:45am School Leaders to Farrer Place

Friday 13 November
Whole School Assembly (2Blue/2White)
12:30pm St Gregory’s Hall

Monday 16 - Friday 27 November
Year 2 & Lowe St Year 1 Swimming Lessons

Monday 16 November
Second Hand Clothing Pool OPEN
9am to 10am Lowe Street MPR

Tuesday 17 November
Kinder 2016 Orientation - 9:30am to 12pm

Wednesday 18 November
Kinder 2016 Orientation - 9:30am to 12pm

Friday 20 November
4 Gold, 2 Gold & 1 Gold to attend Parish Mass - 12pm St Raphael’s Church

Monday 23 November
Second Hand Clothing Pool OPEN
9am to 10am Lowe Street MPR

Wednesday 25 November
Year 6 volunteers to George Forbes House

Wednesday 25 - Friday 27 November
Year 5 Camp - Jindabyne
From the Principal......

PRAYERS: Please keep in your prayers Paula Howard and family. Paula's mum died in Sydney at the weekend. Sympathy is extended to the Hagel family (Sophie - 5 Red and Isabel - 2 Gold) on the death of their Grandfather. Yesterday as a community we celebrated All Souls' Day. This is a special day in the Church calendar where we reminded to pray for those we love who have died. My Year 5 teacher – dear Sister Madeline used to always insist that we prayed for those who had no one to pray for them which is something I always do. I know that death is experienced by many families, we pray for those who grieve the loss of a loved one.

CONGRATULATIONS: to Mr Greg Tarrant for being presented with the award ‘For Outstanding Service to Monaro’ for his work with the Lions Club. Well deserved!

STAFFING 2016: As part of my meetings last week the staffing allocation for St Greg's for 2016 was released. Sadly due to a decrease in overall enrolment, and to keep equity with other school in the Archdiocese, our class numbers will be reduced by one, from 26 to 25. To accommodate this reduction next year there will be 3 Year 4 classes instead of the current 4. This still allows for our Years 4-6 classes to have class sizes under 30 students. This ensures that classes from K-3 will have an average class size of 24.

WHEN OLD FRIENDS MEET: Thank you to Dee McFaul, Des Gomez and Jim Bowring and the Choir students who entertained our senior citizen friends last Tuesday. I know you brightened the day for all!

JUNIOR ATHLETICS: What a glorious day weather wise for this carnival. Often whilst I was sitting in my meetings I was wondering about the K-2 students having fun in the park. It is my understanding that the Year 6 students involved proved, yet again, what terrific leaders they are in our community. My thanks and congratulations to Matthew Maloney for preparing the student leaders, the students themselves, the teachers and the many parents who came along. A fun day of healthy competition was enjoyed by all participants.

DISCO: My thanks to the members of the School Community Council for providing the sausage sizzle at the Disco last Friday. Thanks also to the parents who were able to assist with supervision. My appreciation also to the teachers who came along for part or all of the night – especially Kate and Garreth who helped clean up the hall at the end of the night. I was disappointed by the behaviour of some students who were throwing water, or glow sticks and running around, my concern was really for the safety of all. The mess left at the end of the night had me wondering whether or not discos are really what our students need for socialising.

SWIMMING LESSONS: The 4 Kindergarten classes and 1 Blue began the 2 week swimming program yesterday. My thanks to the parents and grandparents who assist the classroom teachers with supervision to and from the pool. This is a big 2 weeks for all those involved – the children do get tired – I think the teachers feel a little weary too.

HATS: Last week I received some information from the Cancer Council in relation to appropriate head wear for students in relation to sun protection. In short basketball caps are out! They do not protect the back of the neck and ears. I know it is difficult to explain to children the potential for sun cancer but the statistics are alarming and the damage happens to our children now. •Australia has among the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. •About two in three Australians will be diagnosed with some form of skin cancer before the age of 70. •Basal Cell Carcinoma and Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC) are the most common types of non-melanoma skin cancer. •In Australia, over 750,000 new cases of Basal Cell Carcinoma and Squamous Cell Carcinoma are diagnosed and treated each year. •Basal Cell Carcinoma can develop in young people, but is most common in people aged over 40. •SCC occurs mostly in people aged over 50. •Melanoma can occur in young people, but is more common in people over 40, especially men. http://www.cancercouncil.com.au/skin-cancer/#z1KF4GooXH5bfAqB.99

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 cannot be identified. Please be assured your responses are anonymous. Thank you in anticipation of your participation!

SPORTING AND CULTURAL GROUP PHOTOS: This is Julie Wiley's favourite day of the year! It is a big day of trying to ensure that all students who should be are included in the various group photos. My thanks to Julie and appreciation to the staff who contend with the many interruptions throughout the day.
ST GREGORY’S QUEANBEYAN NEWSLETTER

THE MEN FROM SNOWY RIVER MARCH

Queanbeyan RSL is proud to welcome a re-enactment march to commemorate the centenary of the Men from Snowy River march. This march is one of nine being held throughout the region and known in the lead up to World War 1 as the snowballing recruitment marches.

The Men from Snowy River march will be held on Sunday 8th November. St Gregory’s have been invited to participate in the march. Students are expected to wear the full summer uniform and should meet outside Queanbeyan City Council Chambers in Crawford Street at 10:10am. Any family members who would like to join in are warmly invited to march with us.

Marchers will form up at 10:20am in Crawford Street in front of the Eternal Flame and march down Monaro Street to the Lowe Street Cenotaph.

SNOWY RIVER MARCH

LIBRARY NEWS

Author Buzz Reading Challenge
Remember you need to finish and hand your completed sheet in by the end of Week 8. Thank you.

Accelerated Reader - Years 4 to 6
Congratulations to Emily Quan 6Blue and Lachlan Dagwell 6White on becoming our newest Accelerated Reader millionaires! Well done also to Brandyn Ross 5Gold, Eleni Lolesio 4Gold, Angelina Brown 4Red and Rushen Perera 5Gold for making it into the AR 50s club for completing more than 50 reading quizzes at 85% or more! All of these students will be able to celebrate their achievements at the AR party later this term.

If you would also like to join in the party, just keep on reading AR books and completing the AR quizzes. For further enquiries please see Mrs Greentree in the Library (Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays) or email- melissa.greentree@cg.catholic.edu.au

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Lamont Book Club Bumper Issue
Our final issue for the year closes on Monday, 9th November 2015. Only online orders are accepted. This will be the last Book Club from Lamont as they have decided to discontinue their Book Club for 2016.

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OUR SCHOOL RULES

Stay Safe,
Be Fair,
Show Respect.

Congratulations to the following students who received a blue band in October:

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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!
NOTICEBOARD

ADULT EDUCATION DINNER

TOPIC—Real Care, Love and Compassion—The Alternative to Euthanasia.

Guest speaker will be Michael Rodgers.
When: Thursday 19th November at 7.00pm at The Parish Centre, St Gregory's School at MacQuoid Street Campus.
$20.00 per head for dinner. BYO Drinks
Please RSVP: by Tuesday 10th November.
For bookings please call the parish office on 62994611

EXTRA BUS SERVICE

QCity Transit have added St. Gregory's School to school bus service 9. This service might benefit students more than some other bus routes.

The timetable & directions leading up to school are:

Cooma St (Dane Street Bus Stop)...........08:25am
** Pick up as required along Cooma Street (L)
Barracks Flat Dr (L) River Dr (R)
Barracks Flat Dr
Alfred Place Shelter...............08:31am
** (L) Cooma St (R) Candlebark Rd (R)
Cunningham St (L) Thornton Rd (L)
Candlebark Rd (R) Rusten St (R)
Donald Rd **
Donald Rd Shelter.............08:39am
** (R) Southbar Rd (L) Cameron Rd (R) Alanbar
St (L) Cooma St **
St Gregorys .....................08:43am

Queanbeyan High School

Year 6 students transitioning to Year 7 2016
Tuesday 17th November
Information Evening for parents and students at 7:00pm in the Learning Centre which is located in our school library.

Thursday 3rd December
Year 6 Orientation Day to Questacon, more information regarding this day will follow closer to the date.

Any queries please phone: 6297 2088

Queanbeyan RSL Bowling Club (Yass Road)

You are invited to the
Fundraiser
Sunday 29 Nov 15
FREE ADMISSION

Music by "DJ Joe"
Variety Dance: 12pm-4pm
Lunch: 12pm-2pm
Raffle drawn at 2.30pm
Drinks: 10am-9pm

The Queanbeyan RSL Bowling Club will donate $500.00 and $2.00 from every meal.
All proceeds from the raffle will go to HOME.

Bookings are not necessary. However, if you would like to book a table for lunch contact Eleanor Ph. 6297 7623, or 6297 2344
For more information, or if you are able to donate a raffle prize please contact Joe Pelle Ph. 0466 106 982

Queanbeyan RSL Bowling Club
(For information or bookings)

WST GREGORY'S QUEANBEYAN 
NEWSLETTER

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