Dear Parents and Carers,

The atrocities that occurred in Paris over the weekend no doubt were discussed in many homes. It is challenging to know how much and what we share with our children about events such as these. The senseless loss of life, the violence and the horrific scenes on our television screens are impossible for adults to comprehend and so I wonder about our children.

I have sourced the following information from Kids Helpl ine and recommend that you go to their website for more suggestions as to how we help our children when they are exposed to news such as the attacks in Paris.

[Website Link]

We know that disturbing and upsetting news viewed on television and through social media impacts negatively on children. Every day we hear and see news coverage about events occurring either locally in Australia or internationally. The 24 hour news reporting cycle ensures we are kept up to date with the details of newsworthy events including graphic interviews with distressed victims, sad eye witnesses or intense commentators.

What is the impact of disturbing news and how does it affect children and young people?

Parents can expect their children to become more frightened by disturbing news as they age. Very young children do not always understand news especially the spoken news, and they do not understand the significance or the purpose of the news. Fictitious scary creatures can be more upsetting to them than the news because they are designed to be frightening. By pre-school children tend to localise upsetting news events such as reports about natural disasters fearing that similar things might occur in their own family, home, street or suburb even though what they are viewing is happening elsewhere sometimes in another country. Between the ages of 8 and 12 years children use their developing reasoning to manage their emotional responses especially in relation to concrete events such as fires or physical violence. By around 11 - 12 years of age their understanding of the difference between fantasy and reality has become clearer; they feel empathy for the people involved in crises being reported; and they are starting to realise that events have wider consequences, especially more abstract issues - such as terrorism, wars, or suffering.

Why are children and young people affected by disturbing news?

Adults in their attempts to understand and keep abreast of an unfolding crisis can unwittingly expose their children over and over to tragic images as they access 24 hour news feeds and have social media coverage on the event. Repeated exposure to bad news and tragic events can leave children feeling anxious and upset. In some households the television is a constant background presence and news items that are flashed across the screen are accidently viewed by children who are present. The media tends to show the most graphic aspects of an event in order to create compelling viewing for their audiences and a story depicted in colourful images will have more impact than the written account of the same incident that may appear in a newspaper.

Things you can do - limit viewing. Take care when viewing news items that you are not exposing your child to disturbing coverage. Limiting viewing time is one way to control exposure to disturbing news and whilst parents cannot prevent unpleasant and disturbing events occurring, or their children from hearing or seeing reports, they can moderate their children’s exposure.

Practical tips/ideas for managing. Welcome and invite questions from your child about news events and be curious about their thoughts and feelings in relation to the event. Be as accurate as you can be about news without being too simplistic, and avoid cultural stereotyping. Remind them that they live in

**IMPORTANT EVENTS**

**Monday 16 - Friday 27 November**
- 1G, 1R, 1W & Year 2 Swimming Lessons

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

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

**Thursday 19 November**
- Author, Michael Salmon, to visit to Year 3
- Year 3 walking history tour of Queanbeyan

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

**Monday 23 November**
- Second Hand Clothing Pool - Spring Sale
  - 9am to 10am Lowe Street MPR

**Tuesday 24 November**
- Second Hand Clothing Pool - Spring Sale
  - 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

**Friday 27 November**
- 4 Blue, 2 Blue & 1 Blue to attend Parish Mass
  - 12pm St Raphael’s Church

**Monday 30 November**
- Second Hand Clothing Pool OPEN
  - 9am to 10am Lowe Street MPR

**Thursday 3 December**
- Governor-General’s Sports Fun Day
- Year 1 orientation visit to MacQuoid Street

**Friday 4 December**
- 4 White & 2 White to attend Parish Mass
  - 12pm St Raphael’s Church

**Monday 7 December**
- Second Hand Clothing Pool OPEN
  - 9am to 10am Lowe Street MPR

- Junior (Kinder, Yr 1 & Yr 2) Christmas Carols singing - 10am St Gregory’s Hall

**Wednesday 9 December**
- Year 5 excursion to the movies
- 9am to 1pm Limelight Cinema Tuggeranong

**Thursday 10 December**
- Year 1 orientation visit to MacQuoid Street
a safe community and extreme events that are occurring elsewhere are not occurring here. Discuss their strengths and the ways they would respond themselves if some shocking event to occurred such as being offered a lift by a stranger or witnessing a road accident. Helping to prepare your child for possible surprises or shocking events will assist them to think more clearly should the event occur thus reducing the risk of emotional and/or physical harm. Give your child a chance to think of ways that they can be positive and helpful in their community.

As a prayerful community we can remind our children to pray for peace in our world. If you do not already do so perhaps a prayer at meal time might be something your family might consider. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns for your child’s mental wellbeing.

Claire Frazer
Principal

PRAYERS: We pray for peace in our world and respect for each life.

CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations to the students and teachers of 2W and 2B on the presentation of the assembly last Friday. Sadly I had to attend a meeting at the Catholic Education Office and missed the assembly. Reports are that the presentation was excellent and that the students should feel very proud of their efforts.

REMEMBRANCE DAY: I wish to publically acknowledge the exemplary behaviour demonstrated by the students at the Remembrance Day liturgy held at St Raphael’s last Wednesday. The official guests from the local RSL were very impressed by the reverent and respectful behaviour of the students. My thanks to the school captains – Christian, Rebecca, Taylor and Sam who stood with me in the pouring rain at the official opening of the memorial rose garden in silence.

SURVEYS: The 2015 Parent Satisfaction Survey was conducted during November. The company who conducts the surveys have forwarded the reports including the following information. This report is the collation of 35 responses from all parents. This 2015 parent satisfaction survey at St Gregory’s Primary School was undertaken in November 2015. Invitations containing a link to the on-line survey instrument were sent to parents. The survey remained open for 14 days. Parents who had not completed the survey were sent a reminder three days before the survey closed. 35 of the 300 parents completed the survey (12% completion rate is considered poor).

STAFFING 2016: As advised in the newsletter in Week 5 our staffing allocation for 2016 has been reduced by one class – from 26 to 25. At our last School Community Council meeting the members asked that I provide more detail about the staffing allocation. Staffing is allocated according to enrolment numbers. As principal I need to ensure that Catholic Education (CE) have accurate predicted enrolment numbers. New enrolment data for Kindergarten and other year levels are automatically available to CE via our electronic system. CE also has access to enrolments into Marist or St Edmunds – we cannot have names on our data system if they appear on the data for these other schools. As you know we request information from parents of students in grades other than Year 6 if their children will not be attending St Greg’s the following year. The staffing allocation is based on overall enrolment numbers – not the individual grades. CE staff allocate staffing across all the schools in the Archdiocese considering equity and need and keeping within a very tight funding and school fee budget. The bottom line is that staffing allocation is according to average class size. The current allocation was determined on a total enrolment of 628 - the 2016 predicted figure at the time of the staffing allocation meetings. This translates as an average class size of 25.1 – which is very reasonable. Whilst our current predicted enrolment is currently is 642 the average class size would be 25.7 which is still reasonable. I am constantly updating our numbers with CE. Even with the reduced number of classes at this point no classes will be larger than 30. I do appreciate that class size is considered by many to be a very significant indicator of student success however research indicates otherwise. John Hattie in his book Visible Learning for Teachers (2009) lists 150 influences and effect sizes related to student achievement and class size comes in at 113.

KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION: This week we welcome the 104 children who will join our community next year in Kindergarten. Orientation sessions were held yesterday and will be on again tomorrow. This is a very exciting time for families.

YEAR 5 CAMP: The students of Year 5 and the following staff – Brad Brown, Stephanie Ellis, Matthew Maloney and Erin Taylor will be heading to Jindabyne Sport and Recreation Centre for their 3 day, 2 night camp next Wednesday. Fr Troy and I will be going up on Thursday for an overnight visit. My thanks to the generosity of the staff and their families who make themselves available so that students have the opportunity to attend camp. PARENTS please ensure that you have completed the online medical information.
PRINCIPAL AWARDS

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

K Blue - Kirpa Sandwalia
K Gold - Grace Eagles
K Red - Summer Tufui
K White - Mia Roberts
1 Blue - Elly Bollard and Liam Hale
1 Gold - Cecilia Welch
1 Red - Kate Munoz
1 White - Maddison Hughes
2 Blue - Jesse Browne
2 Red - Danielle Quinones
2 White - Ethan Dunn and Nate Rangi
3 Blue - Ethan de Haviland
3 Gold - Chloe McCormack
3 Red - Lizzy Gruber
3 White - Willow Ashman
4 Blue - Joshua Martin and Jessica Foulcher
4 Gold - Liara Leyton-Hynes
4 Red - Rowan Settin and Aaron Ciuffetelli
4 White - Brijesh Kumar
5 Gold - Nadia Boonlert and Ned Bennett
5 Red - Grace Horrocks and Ashleigh Clarke
5 White - Charlotte Green and Brielle Carter
6 Blue - Archisha Meeson
6 Gold - Jasmine Burns
6 White - Brijesh Kumar

AR Millionaires - Lachlan Dagwell and Armand Saad
Gold Band Award - Dejan Celeski, Phoebe Beckett, Cecilie Welch, Sophia Watson, Blake Meadley, Jackson Hall, and Slater Hollis-Millwood.

Congratulations also to Blake Codey and Joaquin Carino who are to receive a Gold Band Award.

LOST PROPERTY

Charli Oldfield (1Red) lost her sports jumper. It has a name tag ironed onto the label. It’s been a good few weeks now (since last term) and has not shown up anywhere. Can you please check items at home for correct names. Thank you.

CLOTHING POOL SALE

SPRING CLOTHING POOL SALE!
Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th November
9am to 10am
Lowe Street MPR
Any 2 items for $5

LIBRARY NEWS

Library Borrowing
This will be the last week of borrowing for students. Please help us out by reminding your child to return any school library books next week.

Author Buzz Reading Challenge
There is still time for students in Kinder to Year 3 to take part in the Author Buzz reading challenge. If they have chosen to participate they will have brought home a form to complete. Spare forms are available from both libraries. This will show their reading record until the end of Week 8. In library we are discussing favourite authors. For the challenge, students have been asked to choose fiction books from their favourite authors. 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 at the end of Week 8 for a chance to win a small prize.

FIRST RECONCILIATION

REGISTRATION FOR THE SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION FOR YEAR 3 (2016) STUDENTS
Registration for the Sacrament of First Reconciliation for children who will be in Year 3 in 2016 has commenced. Please register your child before 11 February, 2016.

Your child must be baptised to receive the Sacrament of First Reconciliation. Paperwork can be downloaded from the parish website at:
http://www.stgregorysparishqueanbeyan.com/sacred-room/sacraments/first-reconciliation/

Payment can be made via our on-line payment option on the website:
http://www.stgregorysparishqueanbeyan.com/engine-room/online-payments/

Please call the parish office if you have any questions regarding this sacrament on 6299 4611.

Thank you. St Gregory’s Parish Queanbeyan

OUR SCHOOL RULES

Stay Safe, Be Fair, Show Respect.

CANTENE NEWS

Helpers at Lowe Street this week are:
Thursday 19 November - Julie Worner
Friday 20 November - Lyn Smith

Volunteers are always welcome at MacQuoid Street, even if you are only available for an hour. Thank you.
FOR SALE - St Mary Mackillop Uniform
Girls full Summer, Winter and sport uniform and school bag. Girls size 12-14 (small women's 8) for $350. All purchased for around $700.
SUMMER UNIFORM - dress and jumper
WINTER UNIFORM - white shirt, kerchief, skirt and winter jacket
SPORT - shorts, polo shirt, pants and jacket
Contact: georgiagleeson@hotmail.com

Qcity Transit wish to advise of a change to School Bus 47 to Severne Street in the afternoons.
Commencing Monday, 16 November this service will become School Bus 73. There will be no change to the current route or timetable.
If you require further information please phone 62993722 or visit www.qcitytransit.com.au

You are invited to the
QUEANBEYAN RSL BOWLING CLUB (Yass Road)

Fundraiser
Sunday 29 Nov 15
FREE ADMISSION

Music by DJ Joe'

Lunch: 12pm-2pm
Drinks: 10am-9pm
Raffle drawn at 2.30pm

 Variety Dance: 12pm-3pm

Come for a drink or lunch or a dance or ALL

For more Information, or if you are able to donate a raffle prize please contact Joe on Ph. 6299 7042

THE QUEANBEYAN RSL BOWLING CLUB will donate
$500.00 and $2.00 from every meal.
All proceeds from the raffle will go to HOME.
Family Fun Day
22 November 10am-3pm Queanbeyan Park

FREE FAMILY FUN
- Zorb ball, rock wall and bungee trampoline
- Bubbles, tattoos, beading & face painting
- NSW fire truck, SES van, Police & City transit bus
- Petting paddock
- Giant Chess & Checkers set
- Kulture Break & Warehouse Circus workshops
- Live magic shows
- Try tennis & croquet sessions
- Jumping castle & merry go round
- Free Dairy Farmer’s milk

more information see www.qcc.nsw.gov.au/Familyfunday
@stqueanbeyan

‘Eden Dance Academy’
hosting
High Tea and

BINGO

Saturday 5th December
2pm to 4pm

Uniting Church Hall—Rutledge St, Queanbeyan

$25 per player for the first 5 games with high tea provided

Cash Prizes, Christmas Hampers, Raffle, lucky Door Prizes & Much More

For booking info, please contact:
Alison on 0416 294 135, Megan on 0427 083 179 or Sheryl on 0416 265 947

All funds raised will go towards Eden performance troupe travelling to Showcase National Dance Championships—GSA in 2016.

Queanbeyan Festival of Ability
Community Celebration
4th December - 4pm - 8pm
Queanbeyan Park

Stalls
Live Entertainment
Amber Nichols
The Jetson 5

Food
Free Raffle

Thank you to all the sponsors and volunteers