Dear Parents and Carers,

This weekend is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of the new liturgical year. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. The key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice.

The Gospel this Sunday is from Luke. Though Jesus predicts a time of destruction and fear, Jesus indicates that others will be frightened; Jesus’ disciples are not to fear, but are to stand tall. Yet Jesus does not promise deliverance from anxiety or tribulations. He encourages his disciples to pray for strength. The early Christian communities did not find consolation in the promise of a utopia, nor should we. Instead, we find in our Christian faith the means by which we witness to God’s unfailing love for us in all circumstances.

Jesus’ predictions about the end times may sound dire, but in the next paragraph Luke tells us that people woke early to listen to Jesus’ teaching in the Temple area. In his person and in his message, those who heard Jesus found strength and consolation. Like the first Christians, we may encounter events and circumstances that could lead us to despair. Through prayer, however, we find strength and consolation in Jesus’ words and in his continuing presence with us to endure all things and to witness to the action of God in our world.

I hear many people say that their prayers are not answered because for them the issue or concern was not resolved as they had hoped and prayed. Prayer does not ensure a clear path or a life without challenge. Prayer provides strength to endure what life sends us. I know this to be true because of my own experience.

Claire Frazer
Principal
From the Principal…….

**PRAYERS:** Sympathy is extended to the Rech family (Candice - 5 Gold) on the death of her Grandmother. We remember very much in our prayers today our dear Mrs Bell, it is her birthday today. We continue to offer our prayerful support to her family.

**SENSORY GARDEN:** Our thanks to the ongoing efforts of the parents who have been instrumental in clearing out, setting up and continuing maintenance of the garden behind the Kindergarten block. What was once an unusable space is fast becoming a fantastic additional resource for our students and teachers. I particularly thank Kristy & Lennon Ryan and Michael Bower.

**OPTIONAL PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS:** Semester 2 reports will be sent home with students on Friday, 4 December. From Monday 7 December until Thursday 10 December teachers will be available for interviews. There will be no interviews held for 5 Gold. **Bookings can be made online from this Thursday 26 November until Thursday 3 December.** Click the PTO link on the home page or under the Notes tab on the school website or [https://bookings.parentteacheronline.com.au?school=s8gbe](https://bookings.parentteacheronline.com.au?school=s8gbe). Your PIN is the same as used earlier this year. Please contact Jane King (6297 2221) if you are unsure of your PIN or have misplaced it. Teachers are generally available in the mornings from 8:15am and after school till 5:00pm provided they do not have a duty or are not involved in meetings.

**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 tomorrow. 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 can have this experience.

**SWEARING:** We have been concerned about the increased incidents of swearing, particularly amongst students in the upper grades. We have reminded students that if they swear they will be calling parents to repeat the words used. This is in keeping with one of our 3 school rules – Show Respect.

**WALKATHON TOTAL:** The total raised from our Walkathon was $14,183-10. Thank you to our parents and carers for your support.

**HAND, FOOT & MOUTH:** We have been notified of a case of hand, foot and mouth disease in the school. Hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) is caused by a virus. It causes blisters on the hands and feet, in the mouth and often in the ‘nappy’ area. It is generally only a mild disease that lasts seven to 10 days

**LUNCHES IN HOT WEATHER:** As the temperature rises it may be worth considering putting frozen blocks in lunch boxes.

**CANDY CANES:** It is that time of year again when I request that students do not bring candy canes to school to hand out to their peers. We find that we have candy cane wrappers everywhere, sticky fingers and dangerous pointy sticks in mouths. Your assistance in this regard is very much appreciated.
ST GREGORY’S QUEANBEYAN NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL AWARD
Congratulations also to Jay Duncan (4 White) who received a Principal’s Award at the last whole school assembly.

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

LIBRARY NEWS
Returns
Borrowing is finished for the year and we now ask students to return all of their loans. This week we will print overdue notices so please check desks, bookshelves and at home.
We have competitions running to encourage students and teachers to return their loans. A prize is offered at both Lowe and MacQuoid - returning your book will see your name go into the draw. A prize is also offered to the class who returns all of their books. Happy hunting.

Accelerated Reader (Years 4 - 6)
Congratulations to our newest Accelerated Reader Millionaires: Armand Saad (5Gold), Claire Elward (5Gold), Rushen Perera (5Gold), Cassie Griffiths (6Blue), Lachlan Dagwell (6White) and James Mackenzie (4White).
Well done also to the following students that have joined the AR 50s club by achieving 85% on more than 50 reading quizzes: Eleni Lolesio (4Gold), Angelina Brown (4Red), William Bate (4White), Alison Bielecki (4White), Ashley Hewson (4White), Brandyn Ross (5Gold), Lachlan Fitzpatrick (5Red), Kaylem Townsend (5Red), Joaquin Carino (5White), Anthony Kopec (5White) and Skyla Robinson-McEvoy (5White).
All of these students will be invited to the end of term Accelerated Reader VIP party.

CHRISTMAS BASKETS

The Queanbeyan Vinnies group prepares several food hampers for local residents each week. Help us to support others especially at Christmas by sending in Christmas hamper items. When you are grocery shopping in the next couple of weeks please add an extra item to your trolley. The following are suggestions; however, you may wish to also include pasta and sauces, drinks, tinned fish or special Christmas items such as tinned hams, mince pies, cakes, puddings, custard, jams etc:
Kindergarten – Candy canes or bon bons
Year 1 – Shortbread biscuits or packet jelly
Year 2 – Tinned corn, beetroot or pineapple
Year 3 – Savoury biscuits/crackers
Year 4 – Chips, Cheezels, Pringles, corn chips
Year 5 – Tinned fruit
Year 6 – Sweet biscuits or long life custard
Please send in donations during December to the baskets in the classrooms.
https://www.vinnies.org.au/donate

Mini Vinnies will be running a fun activity during lunch time to help raise money for the Christmas Appeal. They need donations of empty milo tins and 2L plastic bottles sent to school please - Lauren Macdonald, REC.

LOST PROPERTY

* Archer Mossfield (6 Gold) has lost his Winter Sports Jacket (it has his name on it) - size 14 – 16.
* Taylah Ross (3 Red) has lost her named sports jumper.
* Linclon Picker (5 Red) has lost a red iPod. Can you please check your child hasn’t bought something home that doesn’t belong to them? Thank you.

CANTEEN NEWS

 Helpers at Lowe Street this week are:
Thursday 26 November     Erika O’Brien
Friday 27 November     Leesa Hughes
Volunteers are always welcome at MacQuoid Street, even if you are only available for an hour. Thank you.
HOME READERS
The Home Reading Program is finished for 2015 to allow our wonderful Learning Support Assistants to complete a stock take and prepare for 2016. Please return all borrowed books this week. All families are encouraged to maintain a reading regime during the holidays – it is amazing how much progress can be lost if reading is abandoned during the long Christmas break. Don’t forget to read in front of your children – this is a very powerful message. Thank you.

OUR SCHOOL RULES
Stay Safe,
Be Fair,
Show Respect.

CHRISTMAS TREE
Riverside Plaza are holding their Christmas Tree decorating competition again this year. St Gregory’s students have made many beautiful decorations and the tree looks amazing.

Please visit Riverside Plaza and vote for St Gregory’s Tree. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Voting slips are also available at the school offices.

JUNIOR CAROLS

**Deck the Halls**

With boughs of holly. Ta la la la la, la la la la!

**What:** Junior Christmas Carols

**When:** Monday, 7th December 10am - 11am

**Where:** St Gregory’s Hall

**RSVP:** Children to wear Christmas themed clothes

**Details:** K, Yr1 & Yr2 will sing favourite Christmas carols. Parents welcome!
ST GREGORY’S QUEANBEYAN
NEWSLETTER

NOTICEBOARD

FOR SALE - St Mary Mackillop Uniform
Girls full Summer, Winter and sport uniform and school bag. Girls size 12-14 (small womens 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

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Girls full Summer, Winter and sport uniform and school bag. Girls size 12-14 (small womens 8) for $350. All purchased for around $700.

SUMMER UNIFORM - dress and jumper
WINTER UNIFORM - white shirt, kerchief, skirt and winter jacket
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Contact: georgiagleeson@hotmail.com

'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, Raffles, Lucky Door Prizes & Much More

For booking info, please contact:
Allison on 0416 594 155, Megan on 0427 085 179 or Sheryl on 0416 263 947

All funds raised will go towards CPM performance troupe travelling to Showjazz National Jazz Championships—Q4 in 2018.

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

Stalls
Live Entertainment
Amber Nichols
The Jetson S
Food and more...

Free Raffle
Thank you to all the sponsors and volunteers