Dear Parents and Carers,

During the term break our much loved friend, teacher and colleague Anne Jochimsen died after a courageous and very determined battle with cancer. Our lovely Anne was always thinking of others and this was even in death as being in the break all who could were able to attend her Requiem Mass held in Sydney.

Anne taught at St Gregory’s from the beginning of 2004 until her cancer diagnosis midway through 2014. Anne had an infectious laugh and singing voice that she shared with us all regularly. It was not uncommon for Anne to sweep into the staff room and burst into song leaving us all laughing or joining in the singing with much gusto.

Anne was a passionate educator. She cared very deeply for her students and had a strong sense of the importance of developing positive relationships with the children and their families. Anne’s philosophy was that every child can learn and she would work till she found the best way to teach individuals.

Anne was a woman of deep faith. She had a profound relationship with her God and there was no doubt that it was her faith that carried her not only in her last days but all through her life. Anne was a very positive person and this was evident right up to the end. At her funeral the priest, a cousin of Anne’s, reflected about how when he visited Anne during the last months of her life he always came away feeling better about himself and his priesthood.

On the day of Anne’s funeral 27 staff members travelled to Sydney in a chartered coach and other current and former staff travelled independently. It was wonderful to share the day with many who loved Anne.

Perhaps the most memorable part of the day was when we formed a guard of honour as the hearse was leaving the church - as Anne went past we sang the ABBA song Dancing Queen - I know Anne would have been impressed. Her family certainly appreciated our serenade. Darling Anne thank you for all that you taught me and for your unwavering support of your beloved St Gregory’s Community. We will miss you dearly. Rest in Peace.

Claire Frazer
Principal
From the Principal......

PRAYERS: We hold in our thoughts and prayers all those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. I ask that you keep Anne's family and her friends at St Greg's in your prayers. As we celebrate Mothers' Day this Sunday we keep in our thoughts and prayers the mums who are no longer with us and we thank God for the love they showed.

CONGRATULATIONS: To the St Gregory's Cross Country Team that competed at the NR Carnival at Crookwell last Friday. My thanks to Matthew Maloney and Erin Taylor who accompanied the team and the many parents who also travelled to support the team.

ANZAC DAY: Congratulations to all who marched at the ANZAC day March either for St Gregory's or another community organisation such as Scouts. I was overwhelmed by the support of so many families for this significant community event. The students’ behaviour was exemplary demonstrating amazing respect. My thanks to the teachers who also joined us for the day, your generosity is appreciated.

WELCOME BACK: Ben Mockler who has returned to school following a term of LSL being the primary caregiver for his two young children. Ben returns as the teacher of 4 Gold and in his role as the Wellbeing and Diversity Coordinator. Sybil Busby will be teaching in 4 Gold every Wednesday as Ben is released from his class for his role of coordinator. Thanks to Laura Goodall who was the Wellbeing and Diversity Coordinator when Ben was away.

CLOTHING POOL: After six years of service to our community as the coordinator of the Clothing Pool Michelle Welch would like to hand over the reins to another. In this role Michelle has on many occasions been the welcoming person for families new to our school. Those who know Michelle would appreciate that this role has always been undertaken with a gentle concern for those she meets. It is important to note that in her time of coordinating this service to our community the Clothing Pool has raised $15 000 that has been reinvested in the school for resources. I know Michelle will be horrified by these words because the other quality she possesses is humility – Thank you for your work – our quiet achiever! God Bless. CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS – currently the clothing pool is open every Monday morning but this can be changed to suit the availability of any volunteers. Please contact Karen Nothard at Lowe Street if you require more information or wish to volunteer.

ENROLMENT PERIOD NOW: The official enrolment period for 2017 began yesterday and runs until the 20th May. Any parents seeking enrolment in Catholic High Schools are reminded to ensure that they complete the enrolment process as soon as possible. We are now calling for applications for Kindergarten and other grades for 2017 at St Gregory's. It is important that all applications are received by the 20th May – if you are seeking enrolment for 2017 please contact the office for an enrolment package.

OPEN DAY: Please let friends and neighbours know that our OPEN DAY will be held next Monday 9th May. The school will be open for visitors with tours provided by Year 6 students.

WINTER UNIFORM: Well it has certainly not felt like Autumn but I think the cold weather is just around the corner. It would be appreciated if all students could be in full school winter uniform from the beginning of next week. If you are not certain of the days for Sport Uniform, please check the Term Overviews that will be available this week.

TLC: This Thursday the teaching staff will participate in the 3rd of 9 Teaching and Learning Community workshops to be held this year. This will mean that teachers will be released from class for 75 minutes in order to participate in ‘colour team’ workshops. Relief teachers have been employed.

NAPLAN: Students across Australia in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will participate in the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy testing next week. The timetable for our Year 3 and Year 5 students is as follows. Tuesday 10th May: Language Conventions 9.30 and Writing 1145am, Wednesday 11th May: Reading 9.30. Thursday 12th May: Numeracy 9.30. Friday 13th May: Make up tests as required. It is essential that the students are at school on time and that they have had a good sleep and a nourishing breakfast.

Qkr!: Qkr! is now up and running and available for both MacQuoid St and Lowe St Canteens. Download the Qkr! app on your Android phone or iPhone for quicker hassle-free canteen and school fee payments.
MOTHERS DAY STALL

Mother’s Day stall will be held on Friday, 6 May. Items will range from, cookies and cakes, through to coffee mugs, jewellery, slippers, cooking utensils, candles and so much more. The prices of the gifts will range from $2 to $10. The children will be allowed to purchase 1 item and then once everyone has purchased a gift, children will be invited back to make additional purchases for any other special ladies in theirs lives.

If you are able to help on Friday please email Di Smith at diannesmith82@gmail.com - Thank you.

OUR SCHOOL RULES

Stay Safe,
Be Fair,
Show Respect.

Congratulations to the following students who received a blue band in April for following the school rules: Eva Celeska, Sienna Hamlin, Jonathon Ryan, Knox Brierly, Chris Hodges, Liam Dwyer, Tyran McCudden, Kimberlee Collins, Phoebe Beckett, Jasmine De Jong.

NAPLAN

In May 2016 the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. The tests will be conducted across Australia on the following dates:

Tuesday, 10th May - Language Conventions & Writing
Wednesday 11th May - Reading
Thursday 12th May - Numeracy
Friday, 13th May - A ‘catch-up’ day is scheduled for any students who missed a test or were absent on a test day.

Please contact Erin Taylor if you have any queries relating to these tests.

CANTEEN NEWS

Helper at Lowe Street this week are:

Thursday 5th May  Daphne Gagliardi
Friday 6th May  Betty Ivanos

Volunteers are always welcome at MacQuoid Street, even if just for an hour or more. Please contact Rosemarie on 6297 2221. Thank you.

LIBRARY NEWS

Year 3 to 6
This term, students in years 3 to 6 will be further developing their research skills in Library whilst undertaking units of inquiry. They will learn and implement skills taught from the NSW Information Skills Process including defining, locating, selecting, organising, presenting and assessing an identified need. Students are required to bring their returning books on their designated Library day along with their USB sticks and earphones.

Premiers Reading Challenge 2016
Congratulations to the following students who have recently completed the Premier’s Reading Challenge: Jacob Newman KB, Jay Stonham KR, Brydie Beasley 1R, Alexander Dormer 2W, Riley Picker 2W, Mia Duff 3W, Shanaathanan Srimanobhavan 3R, Trisha Salazar 4W, Ivana Rodriguez 5R and Rose Taylor 5R. Any queries can be directed to melissa.greentree@cg.catholic.edu.au this week or rosalind.wythes@cg.catholic.edu.au from next week onwards. Please ensure you include your child’s name and class in your email.

Accelerated Reader Millionaires Club
Congratulations to Blake Hambrook 6B for becoming our first Accelerated Reader Millionaire this year! Blake has read his way to the top well before the end of term 1 & is already reached over 2.5 million words! What an achievement!!! Congratulations to the following high achievers for also making it into the most exclusive club in the school: Aimee Perrett 4R, Joshua Seivers 4R, Rose Taylor 5R, James Hill 5W, James Mackenzie 5W and Jacynth Blakey 6W. All of these students will be invited to the VIP mid-year party and end of year party. Well done!!

Monster Book Fair - Lowe Street

Please come and support our Lowe St Book Fair on Wednesday 11 May (next week) from 8:30am to 6pm. All welcome from both campuses. Lowe St students will have the opportunity to view the Book Fair during Library Sessions that week.

PROJECT COMPASSION

The Year 6 Spirit team are organizing a Toy Stall to raise money for Project Compassion. Could you please bring in any old and unwanted toys. The toys need to be still in good condition not broken or missing any pieces.

Thank you - Lauren Macdonald, REC.
This year Fire & Rescue NSW is hosting its Annual Open Day on Saturday 21 May, 10am – 2pm. This is a fantastic opportunity for children and their parents to meet their local firefighters and learn all about fire safety in the home. Our local Queanbeyan Fire Station at 41 Campbell Street, will be opening its doors to celebrate Open Day with all sorts of fun activities planned for the kids, including being able to hop aboard a real working fire truck and hold a fire hose, and get a show bag full of goodies while chatting with real firefighters about what they do. They will also be providing a free Sausage Sizzle for everyone.

With the onset of winter just around the corner, learning as much as you can about home fire safety is really important – winter is the worst time of the year for house fires.

So make sure you reserve the date and head down to Queanbeyan Fire Station on Saturday 21 May!

Further information Contact Queanbeyan Fire Station on: 6297 2332
Visit www.merici.act.edu.au for more information.