Dear Parents and Carers,

Here we are at the end of an 11 week first term. It is has gone by so fast, our kindergarten students have finished their first term and our Year 6 students are now a quarter of the way through their last year of primary school.

As you know Pope Francis has declared this a Year of Mercy. Mercy is such a powerful quality. Only strong and self-assured people have the courage to demonstrate mercy to all. Jesus calls us to be merciful to all that is where the challenge of Christianity comes. It is relatively easy to show mercy to those to whom I judge to be worthy – but Jesus calls for more. We are called to be merciful to those to all.

It is the story of the Prodigal Son that reminds us about what Jesus means when he describes mercy. The Father in the story could show mercy without condition or limits. The older brother could not understand at all why his brother deserved to be treated with mercy. I can hear the older brother very clearly in my imagination. What right does he have to be welcomed back? How dare he think he can just waltz back into our homes as if nothing has happened? What about me I've worked hard all my life? It is just not fair!

The reality is that the elder brother was never disadvantaged financially, spiritually or emotionally by the choices and actions of his younger brother. He still had his share of the property, he still had the love of his father and he still had a place of value in the community. And yet he still felt that life was unfair.

No wonder I can imagine what the elder brother must have been thinking … So often this is my reaction to circumstances in my own life.

I hope that all families have the opportunity for restorative rest during the break,

Claire Frazer
Principal
From the Principal……

PRAYERS: We hold in our thoughts and prayers those we know and love that are unwell. We particularly remember Anne Jochimsen at this time. We also pray for the members of our community who are mourning the loss of a loved one.

CONGRATULATIONS: We offer our love and congratulations to Brad Brown (Year 5 teacher) and Sophie Cummins (Teacher at St Gregory’s 2013-2015) on the announcement of their engagement over the weekend. We wish them every happiness for the future.

Congratulations to Shayne (5 White) and BJ (3 Blue) McMahon-Lee who competed in the National Wakeboard competition last week, Shayne qualified for the finals coming in 5th and BJ made it to the semi finals.

GOOD LUCK: We wish Ros Wythes (Library Assistant) safe travels as she takes long service leave until the 8th May to travel overseas with her husband, Peter.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SOCCER CARNIVAL: Congratulations to the 4 teams that participated in the Catholic Schools’ Soccer Carnival last Sunday. On the day teams from 26 schools played 202 games of soccer! What a mammoth organisational task! (Great job Mrs McAuliffe!). Thanks to the community of St Benedict’s Narrabundah who hosted the event. Great effort from the many parents who were there for the day making sure that their kids had a great day, special thanks to those who were coaches and managers. My thanks to the teachers who were able to call in for at least part of the day. Finally, to the players themselves – well done and congratulations.

TLC: Tomorrow is the third in our nine Teaching Learning Communities sessions to be held throughout this year. Teachers are released for a 90-minute session in colour teams. Relief teachers have been arranged to cover classes during these times. This time selected students will be providing feedback to our teachers as to how success criteria can help with their learning.

ANZAC DAY: All students and parents who are current or former members of the Armed Services are invited to participate in the ANZAC Day March on Monday 25th April. We will assemble from 10am near the Council Chambers in Crawford Street, Queanbeyan. Students participating are to wear full school winter uniform.

TERM 2: Students begin on Wednesday 27th April for Term 2. Students should be wearing full winter uniform as of the beginning of Week 2 – Monday 2nd May.

WALKATHON: My thanks to all families who are supporting this fund raising initiative for our school. I appreciate any efforts to collect funds for St Gregory’s. I acknowledge that some families have access to fewer fund raising avenues than others. Any funds raised are of value no matter the amount. The HOUSE that raises the most money will be rewarded with movie and popcorn. I look forward to seeing lots of our parents, grandparents and older siblings this Friday.

PROJECT COMPASSION LAST WEEK! Thank you to all those who have donated to Project Compassion so far this Lent! Project Compassion finishes this week. Boxes are in each classroom and around the school for donations which will go to support people around the world. Visit http://www.caritas.org.au to view the projects.
MOTHERS DAY STALL

Mother's Day gifts are required at school by the end of this week Friday, 8 April. Some ideas for donations include: candles, face washer and soap, chocolates, notebooks, diary, journals, pens, photo frames, hand lotion, jewellery, kitchen gadgets, cook books, tea towels, coffee mugs, etc.

For every donation students will receive a raffle ticket to win a wonderful prize basket. If you would like to volunteer to help with preparing gifts or on the stall on the day please email Di Smith at diannsmith82@gmail.com - Thank you.

OUR SCHOOL RULES

Stay Safe,
Be Fair,
Show Respect.

Congratulations to the following students who received a blud band in March for following the school rules: Maleta Lolesio, Charlotte Holland, Isaac Iirilli, Patrick Agius, Addison McEwan, Shannon Neuss, Ellie Sweet, Brydie Beasley, Cohen Goodchild, Riley Hambrook, Jorjia Blakey, Zoe De Jong, Chris Hodges, Dakota Berry, Phoebe Beckett, Joshua Funnell, Seiana Zraika, Chloe Amey, Peter Murray, Joseph Larobina, Lauren Wind and Euan Celaya.

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 7th April  Denise Oldfield
Friday 8th April  WALKATHON

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

Premiers Reading Challenge 2016

Holidays are coming up and it’s a great time to read for the PRC. We currently have 249 students enrolled with 17 students finished and 67 completing online records. What a great start!!! Congratulations to the following students who completed their challenge this week Sophie Quade KGold and April Taylor 3Blue. I am currently up to date with processing PRC registrations. If you haven’t received a user name and password and have sent in a form, please email. It is not too late to register. Forms are available from the Notes tab of the St Gregory’s School website http://stgregsps.nsw.edu.au/notes/

NB: I’m away on Long Service Leave from 5 Apr – 8 May, so please direct any PRC queries to melissa.greentree@cg.catholic.edu.au Please ensure you include your child’s name and class in the email.

Monster Book Fair - Lowe Street

Coming in Term 2 is our Lowe St Book Fair. One of our competitions is a “Build a Monster” craft competition. The holidays is a perfect time to get busy with this task.

WALKATHON

ONLY 3 DAYS TO GO!!

Our 2016 walkathon will be held this Friday 8th April…Last day of Term 1!!!

YOUTH FUNDRAISER

St Gregory’s Parish are holding a Youth Fundraiser on Sunday 24th April at St Raphael’s Church after 9am mass. There will be morning tea, a bbq, kids activities, entertainment and mothers day stalls. Funds raised will go towards Youth activities in the Parish such as; Little Sparks, Youth Groups, Sacramental Programs and World Youth Day. The Parish are seeking donations of used toys and books that are no longer wanted by your children. Please send all donations to Ryan Matchett at MacQuoid Street or leave at the front office of either campus to be collected. Thank you, Ryan Matchett.
MARIST COLLEGE OPEN DAY

Enrol at Marist Open Day Sunday 1 May 2016.
9am to 12noon
Enrolment Period for 2017:
Year 4, Year 6, Year 7 and Year 11
Monday 2 May - Friday 20 May 2016
Headmaster's Address at 10am
Welcome by Head of Junior School: 10:30am

DARAMALAN COLLEGE ENROLMENT

2017 Primary School Pre-Enrolment Orientation Day.
Thursday, 28 April 2016

Monday, 2 May 2016 – Enrolments for 2017 commence
Friday, 20 May 2016  – Year 7 2017 Enrolments close
If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact the Enrolments Officer via email – enrolments@daramalan.act.edu.au or by phone on 6245 6348

ST EDMUNDS COLLEGE OPEN DAY

Whole school Open Day will be held on Saturday 7 May 2016.
Two session times available 10am or 12:30pm
Please ensure you register to assist with catering numbers.
http://www.stedmunds.act.edu.au/open-day-registration
We look forward to welcoming you to our College.

KARABAR HIGH SCHOOL

Performing Arts Program
Applications for placement in Karabar High School’s Performing Arts Program in 2017 are now open. Application forms are available from St Greg’s office. Completed application forms are due to Karabar High School by 3rd June.
Any queries phone Alison Cronan at Karabar on 6298 4333 or by email alison.cronan@det.nsw.edu.au