



ST GREGORY'S QUEANBEYAN NEWSLETTER

Week Two, Term One, 2016
2 February, 2016



Share the Spirit....

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the 2016 school year! There was a very calm start with very few tears or anxious moments. This of course is due to the preparations that families make in getting ready for the school year. Teachers have also been very busy meeting in teaching teams, planning and programming and setting up classrooms. My thanks to everyone who made the start of the year such a positive experience for our students.

Last week we welcomed 100 kindergarten students, 8 new Year 1 students, 2 new students joined Year 2, 2 new Year 3 students, 3 into Year 4, 2 into Year 5 and another 2 into Year 6. I particularly welcome families who are new to St Gregory's to our community. I take this opportunity to extend an invitation to all parents and carers to meet with me if at any time you have concerns, questions, feedback or simply would like to chat. I very much enjoy the opportunity to meet with parents, you are never an interruption to my work – you are a vital part of my work. Likewise teachers are always eager to meet with parents – all I ask is that you make an appointment, trying to have a conversation when a class of students are waiting to move from lines to class is not conducive to effective communication.

This year the Catholic Church is celebrating a Holy Year of Mercy. As I prepared for the new school year I have spent time reflecting on the meaning of Mercy. A dictionary definition is that 'to show Mercy is to show compassion or forgiveness towards someone whom it is within one's power to punish or harm. God is full of mercy for us all but often we consider ourselves somehow unworthy of God's mercy. I am sure I am not the only person who questions God's forgiveness or suspects that there are limits to God's love. That is my human nature limiting God who is without limitations. I think about how much I love and care for my nieces and nephews and then consider that God's love for me is far beyond the love I can hold for another.

I hope that throughout the year our community can experience as a group and as individuals the great mercy of our God. If you are going past St Raphael's Church in Lowe Street you will notice the banners that Fr. Troy has outside the church with the very simple message 'Come as you are that's how I want you'. Take a few minutes to sit quietly and repeat to yourself God loves me just as I am.

I am so excited about the year ahead and look forward to journeying with you all.

May you always be aware of the great Mercy of God,

Claire

Claire Frazer
Principal



IMPORTANT EVENTS

Tuesday 2 February

Low Street Parent Info Night
- 6pm and repeated at 6:30pm

Wednesday 3 February

MacQuoid Street Parent Info Night
- 6pm and repeated at 6:30pm

Friday 5 February

School Captains Induction Liturgy
12:30pm St Gregory's Hall

Monday 8 February

Swimming Carnival - Years 3 to 6
Queanbeyan Aquatic Centre

Second Hand Clothing Pool Open
9am to 10am Lowe Street MPR

Tuesday 9 February

Registration for Reconciliation closes

Staff and Parent Meeting
7pm St Gregory's Hall

Wednesday 10 February

Ash Wednesday Mass
12:30pm St Raphael's Church

Thursday 11 February

Reconciliation Teacher Retreat Day

Reconciliation Parent Info Night 1
7pm St Raphael's Church

Friday 12 February

Archdiocesan Summer Sport Trials

Monday 15 February

Second Hand Clothing Pool Open
9am to 10am Lowe Street MPR

Tuesday 16 February

Reconciliation Parent Info Night 2
7pm St Gregory's Hall

Wednesday 17 February

Canb/Goulb, Parra & W'gong AFL Trials

Thursday 18 February

Northern Region Swimming Carnival
Yass

Saturday 20 February

Reconciliation Commitment Mass
5:30pm St Raphael's Church

Sunday 21 February

Reconciliation Commitment Mass
9am St Raphael's Church

Monday 22 February

Second Hand Clothing Pool Open
9am to 10am Lowe Street MPR



Focus Value for February - **'RECOGNISING GOD'S MERCY IN GOD MOMENTS'**

From the Principal.....

PRAYERS: Last Sunday 31st January was the first anniversary of the death of Mrs Gwen Bell. Gwen is very missed and greatly loved by the St Gregory's community. As you would know Mrs Anne Jochimsen has been battling cancer. I am sad to say that Anne is now gravely ill in a Sydney hospital. I spoke to her last week and assured her of our thoughts and prayers. Anne asked me to give her best wishes to all and to say how much she loves our school community. Please pray for the McMahon family (Shayne - 5 White and BJ - 3 Blue) on the death of their Grandfather.

PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS: This is a wonderful opportunity to meet your child's teacher, see their classroom and hear about the class routines, teacher expectations and planned learning opportunities. TONIGHT (TUESDAY) LOWE STREET and TOMORROW NIGHT (WEDNESDAY) with 2 sessions beginning at 6 and repeated at 6:30pm.

THEME: The theme to begin our year is to Recognise God's Mercy in God Moments. I feel so blessed to work at St Gregory's as I experience so many God Moments throughout my day. Last Friday a class of Year 1 students were walking past – the first one said, I like your earrings, not to be outdone the next student said I love your necklace, the next one commented on my top, the next one my skirt and finally it was my shoes! The next student just looked at me and we both knew he had run out of ideas. What a God Moment!

SPECIAL MEETING NEXT TUESDAY: My thanks to the parents who have responded so positively to the letter that was posted to families last week. I hope that many are able to attend the meeting next Tuesday 9th February beginning at 7pm.

KAYE LOWE: Last Wednesday Adjunct Professor Kaye Lowe ran workshops for our teaching staff about Literacy. It was a most engaging and interesting 3 hours and you could not help but be inspired by her passion for literacy and her amazing knowledge. Last year Kaye ran a workshop for parents and all those who attended were extremely positive about how useful it was in assisting children with literacy particularly reading. Kaye will be hosting another workshop this year so keep an eye out for the date. In the meantime check out her website:
<http://www.read4success.com.au>

CLASS PARENT CONTACTS: Calling for volunteers to act as Parent Contacts. During the last few years we have had parents or carers act as Parent Contacts. There has been a separate note about this important role in our school sent home today. I encourage you to consider supporting the community by being involved in this vital component of our community. We also require a parent or carer who is happy to be the Parent Contact Coordinator. If you are interested in this role which also included attending School Community Council meetings – held twice a term – please contact me for more information.

LOST PROPERTY: Since starting at St Greg's at the beginning of 2010 the huge amount of lost property that accumulates in one school day has been a concern for me. Many of our students appear to have little regard for their belongings and simply leave them for others to pick up. I know too that parents are often very frustrated when jumpers, hats, jackets, lunch boxes and drink bottles simply disappear. Items that are CLEARLY labelled are always returned to students. However I think the bigger issue is the disregard that some students demonstrate. To this end I will be placing students on Attention if they continually leave belongings around the playground. I look forward to your support in teaching our children to be responsible and respectful for their belongings.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLY: This Friday our Year 6 students will lead us in prayer as the 2016 school captains are inducted and all Year 6 students are acknowledged as leaders of our community. All members of our community are warmly invited to attend. It is not just for parents of Year 6 students. The liturgy will be held at 12:30pm in the school hall. Please note that our Kindergarten classes will not be attending this assembly.

SCHOOL HOURS: Teacher supervision begins at 8:30am. If you know that you will need to drop children well before 8:30am due to work commitments please make before school care arrangements. Students are supervised until collection at the end of the day. It is expected that all children will be collected by 3:15pm. If you are delayed, please ring the school so that we can assure your child they have not been forgotten.

PICK UP ROUTINES: It is very important the established pick up routines are followed. There are teachers rostered to supervise students at these pick up points, thus ensuring the safety of all. Students become easily distressed if parents are running late and so it is important that a teacher is available.

LOWE - Asphalt Side ONLY
MACQUOID - Bottom Gate (front of school on MacQuoid Street)
- Top Gate (oval on Mowatt Street)

LIBRARY NEWS



Welcome to our Libraries in 2016. We have lots of exciting events and activities planned for this year. Lowe St will be having its Book Fair in March - watch this space for more news. Years 4-6 are involved in the Accelerated Reader program and we look forward to welcoming our first millionaires to the most prestigious club in the school. The Premiers Reading Challenge will also begin in March, however, students are encouraged to read now as everything from 1st September 2015 will count towards their challenge.

Kinder - Year 2 Library

Junior Classes - Year 2 library classes at MacQuoid Street (2Gold, 2Blue, 2White and 2Red) are on Monday. Kindergarten and Year 1 library classes at Lowe Street are each Tuesday, but also with KWhite on Monday morning.

Borrowing - Please make a note of when your child will be attending their library lesson, as this is the day students need to borrow and return. There will be no home borrowing for K - Y2 students until Week 3.

Library Bags - Junior students are not permitted to borrow for home without a library bag. It is very important to protect all our books and students will be encouraged to take up this responsibility themselves. Kindergarten students will have been given a school library bag. There are many choices in the type of bag that is suitable; school library bag, old pillowcase, strong shopping bag, home crafted bag etc. A thin plastic grocery bag is not to be used. Our school library bags are available for purchase from the school office. If you are unable to provide a suitable library bag for your child please let the school know. We sometimes have spare second hand library bags to loan.

Responsibility - Students are encouraged to take responsibility for making sure their library bag is in their school bag for their lesson, but of course they will need some help with this. Perhaps a routine could be set up for students to find library bags (with books inside) and place into school bags on Sunday night ready for Monday and Tuesday. Written reminders on the fridge or bedroom door are also helpful.

Students are also encouraged to take responsibility for the care of the books they borrow. Keeping borrowed books inside the library bag whenever they are not being read is important. This way they are easier to find when needed and are less likely to come by accidents with food and drink, pets and other siblings.

- Mel Greentree, Helen Carroll and Ros Wythes.

WASTE FREE WEDNESDAY



We are continuing our waste reduction project at St Gregory's by making every Wednesday a nude food day. Schools nationwide are embracing the nude food revolution and encouraging children to bring a rubbish free lunch to school. For the uninitiated, 'nude food' is food that comes to school without disposable packaging - extra plastic bags, paper bags, wrappings, plastic water bottles or cling wraps.

Australia is the second highest producer of waste per person in the western world! And school lunches are contributing to this, with the average lunch-toting child generating around 30kg of litter a year.

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 support!

SPORT NEWS

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

St Gregory's swimming carnival will be held on MONDAY 8 February at Queanbeyan Aquatic Centre. All students from Years 3 to 6 will participate. We would appreciate the assistance of as many parents as possible to help us with the running of the Carnival. The Carnival will begin at 9:45am and should conclude no later than 2:30pm. Students will begin the day at school and will walk to the pool with their teacher. Your child may leave with a parent/carer in the afternoon after you have informed their teacher. We are looking forward to a great day.

CANBERRA/GOULBURN ARCHDIOCESAN TRIALS

Basketball - Friday 12 February in Young

Cricket - Friday 12 February in Gundagai.

Tennis - Friday 12 February in Young.

AFL - Wednesday 17 February at Thomas Dalton Park, South Wollongong.

Interested students are asked to collect nomination forms from Mr Maloney. Completed forms and \$15 to be returned to school by **Friday, 5 February**. The purpose of the trials are to select teams to represent the Archdiocese. Students must be of good standard, in Year 5 or 6 and play representative sport. Students must be available for selection in all subsequent teams.

- Matthew Maloney, PE Teacher/Sport Coordinator.

WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

Throughout the year all classes will have the opportunity to present at the Whole School Focus Assembly. Assemblies are held on a Friday at 12:30pm in the school hall.

5 February	School Captains Induction
26 February	2 Blue and 2 Red
18 March	2 White and 2 Gold
13 May	Year 4
17 June	1 Gold and 1 Red
29 July	1 Blue and 1 White
12 August	Year 5 (Wakakirri)
26 August	K Blue and K Gold
16 September	K Red and K White
28 October	3 Blue and 3 White
11 November	3 Gold and 3 Red



SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

St Gregory's School communicates with parents by various means.

The **Newsletter** is uploaded to the school website <http://stgregsps.nsw.edu.au/newsletter/> and Skoolbag on Tuesday of each school week. **We will NOT be sending home paper copies after Week 5.** It is our intent to email the newsletter to as many families as possible. A limited number of paper copies will be available for collection from the school offices. We encourage the use of either email or the school website/Skoolbag as the most viable option of receiving the Newsletter as this fits with our initiative to make the school more sustainable.

If you are not receiving the newsletter by email and would like to, please contact Jane King on 6297 2221 or email jane.king@cg.catholic.edu.au



St Gregory's Skoolbag App, is a smart phone mobile app through which the school can communicate directly with iPhone and Android devices. The newsletter, notes, alerts, information, instant messages and reminders are updated regularly on Skoolbag. We encourage all families to download the App. To install, search for our school name "St Gregory's School Queanbeyan" in either the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

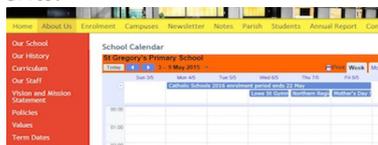
Skoolbag is also available for Windows Phones running version 8.1 of Windows, and Windows devices running Windows 8.1 or 10 (eg Surface tablet, Laptop, PC etc). This makes the app even more accessible than before to our parent community, with the ability to receive messages directly to a PC, Laptop, or Surface Tablet running Windows 8.1 or 10.

To install Skoolbag on your Windows device, look up "Skoolbag" in the Windows Store, and install it. Once installed you can find your school, and pin it to your Windows Home Screen.

NB: You must be running at least Windows 8.1 on your device for the app to function.



Twitter @stgregsqbn enables the school to broadcast short messages about events happening during the day, updates on school excursions, camps and sporting events.



In addition, an **online calendar** listing school activities and special events is available on the school website.

<http://stgregsps.nsw.edu.au/aboutus/schoolcalendar.html>
Calendar dates are also listed in the Important Events section on the front page of the newsletter each week.

GYMNASTICS



Kinder - Year 4 classes will participate in gymnastics lessons once per week during Term One.

MacQuoid Street lessons will be held in the school hall and Lowe Street lessons in the Lowe Street multipurpose room.

Please wear sport uniform on these days.

Mondays - 2 White, 2 Blue, 2 Gold, 2 Red, 4 White, 4 Red and 4 Gold.

Tuesdays - 3 Gold, 3 Red, 3 Blue, 3 White and K Gold.

Wednesdays - K Red, K Blue, K White, 1 Red, 1 Blue, 1 White and 1 Gold.

OUR SCHOOL RULES

**Stay Safe,
Be Fair,
Show Respect.**

FIRST RECONCILIATION

REMINDER TO PARENTS TO REGISTER THEIR CHILDREN FOR SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Please register your child before 9th February, 2016. Your child must be baptised to receive the Sacrament of First Reconciliation, and be in at least Year 3.

Paperwork can be downloaded from the parish website: <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.

CANTEEN NEWS

Helpers at Lowe Street this week are:

Thursday 4 February

Erika O'Brien

Friday 5 February

Leesa Hughes

Canteen volunteers are always welcome. Please contact either canteen to volunteer your time, even if you are only available for an hour. Thank you.

A reminder that in this hot weather to please ensure children's packed lunches are kept in cooler bags with ice bricks. Please do not leave cooked food in lunch bags to consume at second break unless it is well insulated.



NOTICEBOARD

St Greg's Youth Group

28th of February - Academy Launch
(St Gregs/Benedicts held at St Benedict's (no youth gathering))

Times:

4:30 - 5:15 Year 4-6 group
5:30 - 6:15 Youth/Family Mass
6:30 - 8:00 Year 7-12 group

Youth and Family Mass:

This year St Gregory's will be trialling a Youth/Family Mass on **Sunday** afternoons at **5:30pm at St Raphael's**. This Mass will be different to anything you've seen before and will be held at St Raphael's Church Lowe Street. It will be a chance to involve yourself in the broader church community in an interesting and vibrant way.

Queanbeyan Social Basketball



Enrolment/Payment Night Date: Thursday 4th February 2016
Time: 5-7.30pm
Venue: Basketball Stadium
Contact Rosie E: pete35@tpg.com.au
Grades - Kindergarten to Year 6



Register now at www.aussiehoops.com.au
Commencing 12th February 2016
Fridays from 4:30-5:30pm
Ages: 4-10yrs
Cost: \$85 includes basketball, backpack & singlet + 8 weeks clinic
Venue: Queanbeyan Basketball Stadium



Italian for Kids @ St. Gregory's Lowe and MacQuoid students

4th February 2016, Thursday to 7th April 2016, Thursday
Venue: St. Gregory's Parish, 47 Lowe St
Time: 3:25 to 4:30 p.m.
Fees Term One: \$155 per child
Sibling discount 10%.

Note: The LCF Italian Teacher will accompany your child from Lowe St Campus to St. Gregory's Parish Room at 3p.m. Please prepare some snacks for them.

For enquiry and enrolment, please contact LCF Fun Languages www.lcfclubs.com.au
Sarah Mak 0431252768

Email sarah.mak@lcfclubs.com.au

Queanbeyan WHITES JUNIOR RUGBY
www.whitesjuniorrugby.org.au

COME AND JOIN THE WHITES FOR RUGBY SEASON 2016

 Oh and did you know that the Mudhooks & the Whites are bring Junior Rugby is coming to Bungendore?
email info@whitesjuniorrugby.org.au for more info

INFO DAYS

BUNGENDORE SHOW	31 st Jan • 9am - 4pm @ Bungendore Showground
BRUMBIES MEET THE PLAYERS DAY	13 th Feb • 1pm to 4pm @ Brumbies HQ, Bruce
QUEANBEYAN SPORTS GALA DAY	20 th Feb • 10am to 2pm @ QBN Town Park, QBN

ON THE FIELD

VIVA7's (TOUCH RUGBY)	Feb 3 rd , 10 th , 17 th & 24 th • 5.45pm @ Campese Oval, Queanbeyan
BUDDING BRUMBIES	
Bungendore Sessions	Feb 4 th , 11 th , 18 th & 25 th • 5pm @ Mick Sherd Oval, Bungendore
Queanbeyan Sessions	Feb 5 th , 12 th , 19 th & 26 th • 5pm @ Campese Oval, Queanbeyan

SEASON TRAINING BEGINS 2nd MARCH 2016

QBN 4.30pm - Campese Oval, QBN	Bungendore 5pm - Mick Sherd Oval, Bdore
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All registered players will receive a set club shorts and socks plus a Brumbies JRP card entitling them to free entry to all home games played at Canberra Stadium during the regular Super Rugby season.

So grab your mates, bring your brother or your sister & bring on season 2016

www.whitesjuniorrugby.org.au

  Find us on facebook  We are a Good Sports club  FIND US ON 

Monaro Panthers Football Clinics

15 February to 21 March - 6 weeks
Blundell Park
Cost: 80\$ per participant

Beginners (U6's - U9's) 5:00pm - 6:00pm
Intermediate (U10's - U14's) 6:10pm - 7:10pm
Advanced Players only 7:15pm - 8:30pm
Clinics for Goalkeepers (with Monaro GK Coaches) 6:30pm - 7:30pm


Registrations are now open until 12th of February on myfootballclub.com.au
More information can be found on our website www.monaropanthers.com.au

MINI SPORTS WITH MPFC

Football Program for 3, 4 and 5 years old!

Start on 16 February 2016
EVERY Tuesday and Friday morning for 6 weeks

Letchworth Park - Queanbeyan
Cost: 80\$ per participant


Registrations are now open until 14th of February on myfootballclub.com.au
More information can be found on our website www.monaropanthers.com.au