Dear Parents and Carers,

Our theme for February is ‘Recognising God’s Mercy in God Moments’. What is a God Moment and how do we recognise it?

When something happens in our lives and we can’t really explain it. — That’s a God-Moment. Even if it is just for a second we know that something greater than ourselves has touched our lives.

When someone shows Mercy that provides a God Moment – not just for the one who is shown Mercy but also to the one who demonstrates Mercy.

Last week I accidently bumped into a student in the corridor – I apologised and with great compassion the little one looked up at me and said – ‘it’s okay Ms Frazer you didn’t mean to bump me.’ I guess there were lots of ways this scene could have played out.

I was rushing to assist a teacher who had called for backup so I may have been excused for not taking the time to apologise after all I had important work!

The student may have chosen not to accept my apology and perhaps fall to the floor in an exaggerated response to the bump in order to attract attention.

Instead we had a ‘God Moment’ where the student could show mercy to me. We both benefitted from this split second encounter. Now when we see each other around the school we smile at each other knowing that we had shared a special moment.

Our God Moments can be the spectacular life changing experiences – but more often they are the daily encounters we have with others. I pray that you are open to recognising these precious moments when God is truly present.

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

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

PRAYERS: We offer our prayerful support to the Taloni family (Peter - SWhite and Sarah 2Gold) following the death of Joanne's dad last week. We continue to pray for all those who are ill remembering in particular our dear friend Anne Jochimsen. Please keep in your prayers the children of Year 3 and their parents who are preparing for First Reconciliation.

CONGRATULATIONS: Stephanie Ellis returned to school last Thursday following her marriage to Josh Goodall in Sydney last Saturday. Welcome back!

NR SWIMMING CARNIVAL: Congratulations to the students who have qualified to represent St Gregory’s at the Northern Region Swimming Carnival to be held in Yass this Thursday. For those new to the school the Northern Region schools are: St Bede’s Braidwood, St Mary’s Crookwell, St Joseph’s Goulburn, Ss. Peter and Paul Goulburn, Trinity College Goulburn and Mt. Carmel Yass. The Northern Region Swimming Team will be selected on Thursday to compete at the next level.

MORNING ASSEMBLIES: I do not wish to sound like a cranky old school principal BUT I do ask that parents refrain from speaking to each other during our assemblies. It is challenging enough to get our students to be quiet and focus on the person leading assembly but this is made even more challenging when there is chatter behind them not to mention the traffic noise that is also distraction at Lowe. The example we give is so important and teaching our students to be reverent during prayer and respectful listeners is part of what we value at St Greg’s. Your assistance in this regard is very much appreciated.

TEACHING LEARNING COMMUNITIES: Yesterday all the teaching staff participated in workshops focussing on Assessment for Learning – AFL. This continues the two year program that we started last year. An important part of the program is that teachers observe each other teaching. This provides a wonderful opportunity to enhance and develop the pedagogical skills of our teachers.

PARENT CONTACTS: Thanks to the parents who have volunteered to support the school in the role as classroom parent contacts. I will be in touch via email with our volunteers this week. We are still seeking parents for the following classes – KG, 1B, 2B, 2W, 3R, 3W, 4G, 6G and 6W.

LITERACY: Adjunct Professor Kaye Lowe spent the day at our school today working with our Year 5 teachers. Kaye worked alongside the teachers in their classrooms during Literacy Blocks. Kaye then facilitated the usual weekly staff meeting. Kaye is so passionate about providing the very best literacy learning experiences for our students and the teachers very much value the vast knowledge and experience that Kaye shares.

YEAR 6 LENTEN PRAYER: Every Wednesday during Lent the Year 6 students will be participating in a prayer service in St Gregory’s Church immediately after morning assembly. Fr Troy is leading this time of prayer and parents are very welcome to join us in the church at this time.

PARKING IN PARISH CARPARK: Lowe Street parents are reminded that parking is not permitted in the small parish car park when dropping off or picking up children from the Lowe Street campus. This car park is reserved for parish staff or visitors to the parish. The showground carpark is available to parents and is a much safer option. Thank you for your consideration.

HATS: All students need a school hat – students are not permitted to wear other hats. Hats are available for purchase for $10. Please ensure that all clothing is labelled clearly.

NEWSLETTER: A reminder that we will NOT be sending home paper copies of the newsletter after Week 5 (next week). The Newsletter is uploaded to the school website http://stgregsps.nsw.edu.au/newsletter/ and Skoolbag on Tuesday of each school week. 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
PROJECT COMPASSION

Project Compassion commences this week and continues right through Lent, up to Easter. Collection boxes have been placed in each classroom and the school offices for donations which will go to support people around the world. This year’s theme is ‘Learning More, Creating Change’. Visit http://www.caritas.org.au to view the projects. Thank you for your support - Lauren Macdonald, REC.

SPORT NEWS

ARCHDIOCESAN WINTER TRIALS
Please note the dates listed on the Archdiocesan Winter Sport trial (Rugby League, Soccer, Netball and Hockey) note were incorrect. Trials will be held on Monday, 7th March (Week 7). All trial venues and times are still correct. I apologise for any confusion.

ARCHDIOCESAN BASKETBALL TRIALS
Congratulations to Talia Da Silva, Blake Codney, Tom Grant, Toby Goodyer and Lachlan Fitzpatrick who have been selected to represent Canberra and Goulburn in girls and boys basketball. They will travel to Wollongong in early March to try and gain selection in the Mackillop squad. Well done!

ST GREGORY’S SWIMMING CARNIVAL
On Monday St Gregory’s held their swimming carnival at the Queanbeyan Aquatic Centre. Once again all students demonstrated fantastic sportsmanship and competitive spirit in events across the day. A massive thank you to all of our volunteers who assisted with the running of the carnival, your efforts are much appreciated and do not go unnoticed by our students and staff. Good luck to our students who are representing St Gregory’s in the Northern Region Carnival to be held in Yass on Thursday - Angelina Brown, Skyla Robinson-McEvoj, Ellie Da Silva, Madeline Bennett, Niamh Billiards, Giselle Arona, Eleni Lalesio, Lillian Foster, Anessa Nappo, Hannah Zutt, Keeva Robinson-McEvoj, Shania Settin, Imogen Dorsett, Matilda Howell, Lily Monahan, Lily Vanderpol, Ivana Rodriguez, Toby Goodyer, Ned Bennett, Joshua Ireland, Cooper Lovekin, Leo Vanderpol, BJ McMahon-Lee, Emmett Smith, Josh Seivers, Ryan Weatherby, Kaleb Gowland, Joaquin Carino, Thomas Hatchman, Brent Marsden, Jordan Thurling, Brad Slivinski, Aaron Ciuffetelli and William Hales.

- Matthew Maloney, PE Teacher & Sport Coordinator.

LIBRARY NEWS

Premiers Reading Challenge 2016

The Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely. The Challenge for this year will open on the 7th March 2016. It closes on the 19th August for students. Students attempting the Challenge are required to read the following by 19th August and books read from 1st September last year may also be counted. The Library keeps a loan history for each student which begins from September last year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenge Year Level</th>
<th>K-Yr2</th>
<th>Yrs3-4</th>
<th>Yrs5-6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of books you read</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Min No. of PRC books</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Choice</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRC Booklist you may read from</td>
<td>K-2 3-4</td>
<td>5-6</td>
<td>2-3 5-6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

K-Yr2 students can read books by themselves or have them read to them. Books read by the librarians in the K-Yr2 library classes will be automatically added to your child’s record. Yr3-4 and Yr5-6 students must read the books themselves. Our books in the Library are clearly marked with PRC stickers and during the Challenge we keep PRC books on display. Newsletters are emailed home to parents during the Challenge and when students complete the Challenge their names are published in the School Newsletter and on the School Library Page.

Students receive a certificate at the end of the year if they complete the Challenge. If they complete the Challenge each year for four years a gold certificate is awarded and if they complete the challenge every year from K-Yr6 a platinum certificate is issued. We offer a number of prizes to encourage participation – first student finished at Lowe; first student finished at MacQuoid; most number of students in a class to finish and a lucky door prize drawn from completed students. Students receiving Gold and Platinum awards attend a special party at the end of Term 4.

Each year parents or carers need to enrol their children for the current year’s Challenge. If you wish your child to attempt the Challenge you need to talk to them about it before you send the enrolment form back to the school. Many students last year were unaware they had been enrolled. We try to support your child if they are attempting the Challenge but it still requires considerable support from families to update their reading records, encourage them to read PRC marked books and in the case of K-Yr2 students read to them. Forms will come home Week 5 (22nd February) and should be returned to school asap.

Please, if you decide to enrol your child – take the time to accurately fill out the Enrolment Form (this will save a huge amount of time for the Co-ordinator). Any questions can be directed by email to: rosalind.wythes@cg.catholic.edu.au – Mel Greentree, Helen Carroll and Ros Wythes.

CANTEEN NEWS

Helpers at Lowe Street this week are:
Thursday 18 February  Help Needed Please
Friday 19 February       June Lawrence

ST GREGORY’S QUEANBEYAN NEWSLETTER
NOTICEBOARD

PERFORMANCE ACTING CLASSES
St Gregory's School Lowe St Campus
Multi-Purpose Room
Wednesdays 3:30-4:30pm starting 10th Feb

Join Acting Antics PERFORMANCE ACTING class and perform in this year's gala performance of ... "ROCKETMAN"

* Learn acting & theatre skills
* Learn to speak in clear expressive English
* Learn to express yourself with confidence
* Extend creative & dramatic potential
* Learn how to perform in front of an audience
* Wear gorgeous costumes
* Every student gets a role with dialogue
* Have fun with like-minded children

AGES: Children from all schools aged 7 – 12 years
FEES: Season 1 (Term 1 & 2) $324.00 - 18 sessions
Free trial – start any time - pro-rata fees - sibling discounts

REGISTER: http://ctcau.actingantics.com
INFORMATION: admin@actingantics.com - 0409 507773 (Deborah Percy)

Queanbeyan Baby/Kids Market & Expo
10am – 1pm
Saturday 5th March 2016
Queanbeyan PS, Isabella St

To book your market stall ($20 table provided from school or $15 with own table)
Please contact Angela Kounapis
angela.kounapis@det.nsw.edu.au

familiesNSW
supporting families to raise children

In partnership with

Queanbeyan Sports Expo 2016

The Queanbeyan sporting clubs present the inaugural Queanbeyan Sports Expo.
This unique event brings together all of our Queanbeyan sporting clubs and associations in one venue to allow you to come, try and learn more about what’s on offer in our community. You can even register to join your favorite club on the day.

Queanbeyan Sports Expo 2016

fitting participation in sport in our community

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