Dear Parents and Carers,

This year we are focussing on the Gospel of the Prodigal Son. Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn, Dutch baroque artist, painted The Return of the Prodigal Son, the image below, shortly before his death in 1669. It now hangs in the Hermitage in St. Petersburg, Russia.

This painting provides an amazing focus for reflecting on the parable of the Prodigal Son that Jesus told to his followers. I would suggest focussing on one character at a time. This week we will focus on the father.

The father is stooped – perhaps because of the worry and anguish he has experienced since his son left the family home with his inheritance. He has his eyes closed almost as if the moment is too powerful and overwhelming. The father is leaning towards his son. The love, mercy and compassion that he has for his wayward son is obvious. Now look carefully at the hands of the father... they do not match in size, or shape or features. The left hand on the shoulder of the son is a masculine, strong and embracing hand. The right hand is more feminine in appearance, gentle and enveloping with love the son who was lost and is now found.

This is the way that Jesus wanted us to understand God. A God of love and compassion and mercy. So many hold onto an image of God that is demanding, judgemental and punishing. God does not want our response to be one based on fear but one based on love.

As we enter the third week of Lent we are called to repentance. Repent and turn to God.

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

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

PRAYERS: Please keep in your prayers the families in our community who are mourning the loss of a loved one. Our support is offered to the Tufui family (Sara 2Gold and Summer 1Red) following the death of their grandfather.

WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY: This Friday the students of 2Blue and 2Red will lead our whole school assembly with the theme Recognising God's Mercy in God Moments. All parents, carers and friends are invited to join us for this time of prayer, reflection and celebration starting at 12:30pm in the school hall. A reminder to all visitors to enter the hall from the back entrance.

NR SWIMMING CARNIVAL: It was my great privilege to attend the Northern Region Swimming Carnival in Yass last Thursday. Our swimmers represented the school with great pride and are to be congratulated on their efforts. Well done to those swimmers who will now be part of the Northern Region Team competing at the Archdiocesan Carnival to be held in Queanbeyan on Tuesday 1st March. My thanks to Matthew Maloney and Brad Brown who accompanied the team to Yass.

CLASS CONTACTS: My thanks to the parents who have volunteered to be Parent Contacts for 2016. At the time of printing we only have 5 classes who are yet to have a parent contact – I am confident that we will fill the vacancies – if you are waiting to see if someone else will volunteer – it is time to take the leap! Special thanks to Amanda Lawrence (mum of Milly 1G) who has volunteered to take on the role of Parent Contacts Coordinator. This week families will be invited to provide email contact details so that parent contacts can create a 'class group email'.

AFTERNOON PICK-UP: There are 2 afternoon pick up points at MacQuoid Street – TOP GATE at the back of the oval and BOTTOM GATE near the pedestrian crossing. These are the only 2 places where teachers are rostered for supervision. At around 3:20pm children still to be collected are escorted to the area near the amphitheatre where they are supervised. At Lowe Street there is one pick up area – on the asphalt, unless a funeral means that pick up is transferred to the grass side. Please do not instruct your children to wait in other areas. If you are held up they can become distressed and may be in an area without supervision.

MORNING SUPERVISION: Begins at 8:30am. Students arriving before this time need to sit in class lines. If your work commitments require your child to be at school earlier than 8:30am you may need to consider before school care options. I am surprised to see some of our students on site well before 8am.

HATS: If the forecast is accurate we are in for some very hot days this week. Students will not be permitted to play outside if they do not have a school hat. PLEASE check that hats are clearly labelled. Hats are available for purchase for $10 from the school offices.

NEWSLETTER: A reminder that we will NOT be sending home paper copies of the newsletter after today. A limited number of paper copies will be available for collection from the school offices, if required. The Newsletter is uploaded to the school website http://stgregspnsw.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. We encourage the use of either email or the school website/Skoolbag as the most viable option of receiving the Newsletter. 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
Laos Disabled People’s Association’s specialist school for young people with an intellectual disability, which is supported by Caritas Australia.

Project Compassion continues this week and 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.

Canteen News

Helpers at Lowe Street this week are:
Thursday 25 February    Help Needed Please
Friday 26 February    Betty Ivanos

Year 6 Laptops

2016 marks the first year of 1:1 devices and Google Apps for Education (GAFE) in Year 6 at St Gregory’s Primary School. After successful introduction and trial of the program in Terms 3 and 4 last year, we are excited at the prospect of full implementation of GAFE and Chromebooks in Year 6 this year, to enhance all areas of learning. We would like to invite all parents and carers of current Year 5 and 6 students to an information session regarding Chromebooks and GAFE in the classroom and at home. This will be held in the MacQuoid Street Library at 6:30pm on Wednesday, 16th March – Garreth Wigg, ICT Coordinator.

Premiers Reading Challenge

Registration Forms are available this week coming home with the eldest child and also available in the notes tab of our St Gregory’s School web site. Completed forms should be returned to school ASAP. Please talk to your child before you return the form to school, as students need to be aware that they going to participate. The Challenge for this year will open on 7 March 2016. Any queries please contact rosalind.wythes@cg.catholic.edu.au

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 Cricket

Congratulations to Mathew Jackson who has been selected to represent Canberra and Goulburn in cricket. He will compete in an Interdiocesan Competition on Tuesday 8 March. Well done!

Northern Region Swimming Carnival

Good luck to our students who are representing Northern Region at the Archdiocesan Carnival to be held in Queanbeyan next Tuesday - Giselle Arona, Madeline Bennett, Angelina Brown, Aaron Ciuffetelli, Ellie Da Silva, Imogen Dorset, Lillian Foster, Toby Goodyer, Joshua Ireland, Eleni Lolesio, Brent Marsden, Keeva Robinson-McEvoy, Skyla Robinson-McEvoy, Ivana Rodriguez, Shania Settin, Brad Slivinski, Lilly Vanderpol, Ryan Weatherby and Hannah Zutt.

- Matthew Maloney, PE Teacher & Sport Coordinator.

ICAS Competitions

The UNSW is offering students an opportunity to participate in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS).

ICAS is an annual skills development assessment program in key areas of learning for students in Years 2-12. Assessments are available in Digital Technologies, English, Mathematics, Science, Spelling and Writing.

ICAS gathers performance information through a 30-60 minute supervised in-school test. These tests are voluntary.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tr>
<td>Digital Tech (Yrs3-6)</td>
<td>$8-00</td>
<td>Thursday, 19 May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science (Yrs2-6)</td>
<td>$8-00</td>
<td>Friday, 3 June</td>
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<td>Writing (Yrs3-6)</td>
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<td>Friday, 17 June</td>
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<td>Spelling (Yrs3-6)</td>
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<td>Friday, 17 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>English (Yrs2-6)</td>
<td>$8-00</td>
<td>Friday, 5 August</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics (Yrs2-6)</td>
<td>$8-00</td>
<td>Friday, 19 August</td>
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If you would like to register your child, please collect a registration form from MacQuoid Office and return it, along with your entry fees, to school by Friday, 18 March, 2016 – Garreth Wigg, Administration Coordinator.

Our School Rules

Stay Safe, Be Fair, Show Respect.
LIBRARY NEWS

Kinder to Year 2

Junior Classes
Year 2 library classes at MacQuoid Street are on Monday. Kindergarten and Year 1 library classes at Lowe Street are each Tuesday, but also with KWhite on Monday morning.

Borrowing
Students have been very enthusiastic with borrowing and enjoying fabulous books in the library during the last three weeks! How exciting it is to see their delight and hear of how much they have enjoyed the book at home!

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 are being encouraged to take up this responsibility themselves. Mum is always to blame for forgotten library books and bags, so I’m told! So, it is important for students to share the responsibility of packing their library bag and books into school bag. School library bags are for sale through the office for $2 each.

If you are unable to provide a library bag for your child for any reason, please either speak with or write a quick note to me or your child’s teacher and we will endeavor to source a second hand bag for your child’s use.

Responsibility
Students have been learning all about looking after and treasuring books. We have discussed using a bookmark, keeping our hands clean, turning pages carefully and protecting books from pets and tiny siblings. Your child may wish to chat about some of these as they share their book with you at home.

Reading Rug
Last week we began a Pop-Up Reading Rug at Lowe Street for students to share books in the playground. This was very popular and will happen each Tuesday. The opportunity for children to make their own choices in books and to read in any place is important to developing lifelong reading habits.

You can either go directly to the login page www.worldbookonline.com or go to the St Gregory’s webpage, click on ‘About Us’ then ‘Library’, then ‘Oliver’ link, then World Book Online. Students will need to put in their login and password details from their laminated card. Mrs Greentree, Mrs Carroll, or Mrs Wythes may also provide you or your child with this information.

Year 3 to Year 6 Library Program

Library days
Monday - 4Gold Tuesday - Year 3, 4Red and 4 White
Wednesday - Year 6 Friday - Year 5

All students in Years 3 to 6 will attend library once a week for reading programs, research and guided inquiry to complement units studied in class. At this time, they will borrow/return up to 3 books. They may also borrow/return at lunchtimes on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Every lesson each child is urged to bring in a clearly labelled library bag to protect borrowed books, their USB memory stick and a set of earphones to use when required on the computers. Earphones need to be the small ear bud type and sealed in a small snap lock bag with child’s name and class. Earphones and USB sticks will be stored in your child’s classroom.

This term, Years 3 and 4 will complete a Cyber Safety unit to develop an awareness of factors to consider when using and interacting with information sources and technologies. A range of cyber smart factors will be explored by students including protecting their personal information, and the impact of social media, netiquette and cyber bullying. Year 4 and 5 will focus on developing their information literacy skills whilst undertaking their Geography units. This includes strengthening their skills in defining, locating, selecting, organising, presenting and assessing a unit of inquiry.

All students will also become more familiar with our online library catalogue ‘Oliver’ and World Book Online database to locate information for their recreational and learning needs.

Additionally, Years 4 to 6 will be introduced to (Year 4) or continue on (Year 5 & 6) with our Accelerated Reader (AR) program. This is a motivational reading program aimed at primary and junior high school students. The main focus of AR is on developing students’ literacy skills and to cultivate enjoyment in students reading for pleasure.

In undertaking the AR program students will:
- Engage in reading
- Know their current reading level
- Use an online tool to select appropriate books and complete relevant comprehension and vocabulary quizzes
- Achieve a personalised reading target
- Identify and use a range of reading strategies
- Start to accelerate their individual reading level

To access the Accelerated Reader Book Finder:
Go to the St Gregory’s Primary School website, click on ‘About Us’, then ‘Library’ and then the ‘Oliver’ link.

To access World Book Online:
You can either go directly to the login page www.worldbookonline.com or go to the St Gregory’s webpage, click on ‘About Us’, then ‘Library’, then ‘Oliver’ link, then World Book Online. Students will need to put in their login and password details from their laminated card. Mrs Greentree, Mrs Carroll, or Mrs Wythes may also provide you or your child with this information.

To access the Accelerated Reader Program:
You can either go directly to the login page https://auhosted2.renlearn.com.au/3489141/ or via St Gregory’s webpage, click on ‘About Us’, then ‘Library’, then the blue ‘Accelerated Reader’ link. Students will need to put in their login and password details given in library lesson.

To access the Accelerated Reader Book Finder:
You can either go directly to the webpage http://www.arbookfind.com.au or via St Gregory’s webpage, click on ‘About Us’, then ‘Library’, then ‘Oliver’ link, then the link below Accelerated Reader Book Finder. The key code provided in the library will be required to access St Gregory’s catalogued AR books. This information is also available from library staff.

For further information, please contact Mrs Greentree by email - melissa.greentree@cg.catholic.edu.au
Queanbeyan Kangaroo
Minor Rugby League

Want to play Rugby League, why not join the Queanbeyan Junior Roos?

Our club has spots available in most age groups starting from u6s up to u16s.

There is also a Joey’s skills development program for 3 – 5 year olds

If you are interested please contact Tracy via email on roossecretary@hotmail.com or Ph: 0433300259

Queanbeyan Social Basketball
Players Needed for social comp
Kinder - Year 2 and Years 3-4
Contact Rosie by email at pete35@tpg.com.au

Come and try Orienteering at Karabar High Qbn South PS
Wed March 2nd evening
Brigslow St Karabar

DISCOUNT ENTRY

Wed March 2nd
Start anytime from 4.30-6.30
Enjoy a walk with a map in the safety of school grounds.
Special Discount $5 for any students or families from this school if you bring this voucher.
Or pre-register online $2
http://act.orienteering.asn.au/events

‘Promotion NL Qbn’