Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week the staff and students at Lowe Street had a bit of a surprise when Pope Francis visited – well at least a card board version. The students were particularly interested and no one seemed too sure of exactly who he is! There were some very imaginative suggestions from Fr. Troy to Jesus. Last Friday the Pope visited Macquoid Street. Garreth Wigg was not expecting to run into him in the staff room on Sunday! Ryan Matchett and Stephanie Ellis also got a surprise on Monday morning when they arrived at school early. I think they are all now recovered from the fright!

Pope Francis has a particular focus on the family. He has made many statements about how important families are to our social fabric. He has also reflected on how our busy lives can impact on our families. I find it interesting that television stations regularly show ads reminding us of the importance of connecting to our families by sharing mealtimes together.

Last week I asked you to focus on the image of the father in this painting by Rembrandt. This week we will turn our focus to the son. Note the downturned head of the son too ashamed to look into the eyes of his father. So often our own sense of guilt can blind us to the forgiveness that is so freely offered by our God. Also note that his shoes are so worn that on one foot there is nothing left of the shoe. Perhaps this calls us to reflect on our journey and how hard it can be at times. No matter our journey we can always be certain that our God is waiting to embrace us in his love.

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

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

PRAYERS: Please keep in your prayers Bridget Allen teacher of 2 Blue following the death of her grandmother over the weekend. Anne Jochimsen is most appreciative of your prayerful support and requests that you continue to hold her and her family in your prayers.

CONGRATULATIONS: To Patrick Agius of 1 White! Last Thursday Patrick rang 000 because his baby sister was not breathing, thankfully Alexis is okay. His mum described him as her hero and he is certainly a hero at St Gregory’s.

WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY: Congratulations to the teachers and students of 2 Blue and 2 Red for their assembly presentation last week. It was a wonderful reminder of how much we are loved by God without condition. Special congratulations to Bridget on a very successful first assembly in her career.

THEME: The students of 2 Gold and 2 White are now helping us to reflect on our current theme – Showing Mercy by Practising Forgiveness. They will lead our Monday morning time of prayer for the next few weeks and will present an assembly with this theme on Friday 18th March.

ARCHDIOCESAN SWIMMING CARNIVAL: Today Matthew Maloney was the convener of the Archdiocesan Swimming Carnival at Queanbeyan Pool. As you can imagine this is a big challenge – especially when you are carrying an injury! Congratulations Matt an another success. My thanks to Brad Brown, Bella Duke and Fron Hewson who assisted at the carnival. I would also like to acknowledge all the staff who took on ‘extras’ to cover staff attending the carnival.

WHERE IS CLAIRE FRAZER? This afternoon I am travelling to Bowral and will be away from school for the rest of the week. On Tuesday evening I will be meeting with the newly appointed principal from Gundagai in my role as his ‘peer principal’. On Wednesday staff from Catholic Education will present workshops a new Leadership Framework, Pedagogy and Wellbeing and Governance and Risk Management. From Wednesday evening until Friday lunch I will be participating in a time of prayer and reflection facilitated by Archbishop Christopher Prowse. I am certainly looking forward to some time with colleagues particularly the newly appointed principal at Campbell – Julie and I will very much appreciate the time for prayer, please be assured of my prayers at this time.

CLASS CONTACTS: Thank you to the parents who have volunteered in the last two weeks for this vital role in our school. KG, 2B, 2W, 4G and 6G are still in need of a volunteer!

COMMUNICATION: As we begin Week 6 of an 11 week I would like to remind parents, as I have teachers, of how important it is to have regular contact between home and school. This is even more important if you have concerns or questions. Teachers can be contacted by email.

CHICKEN POX: For your information we bring to your attention that there have been a couple of cases of chicken pox reported in the school. Symptoms may include slight fever, runny nose and a rash that begins as raised pink spots that blister and scab. Please keep your child at home for 5 days after the rash first appears and until the blisters have all scabbed over.

Take a stand together against bullying - On Friday, 18th March, St Gregory’s will be recognising the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence. The National Day provides the opportunity for the community to focus upon actions to ensure that every student and school community is safe, supported, respected and valued. At St Gregory’s we encourage everyone to have a voice and to say ‘Bullying. No way!’ Bullying is an ongoing misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that causes physical and/or psychological harm. It can involve an individual or a group misusing their power over one or more persons. Bullying can happen in person or online, and it can be obvious or hidden. Bullying of any form or for any reason can have long-term effects on those involved, including bystanders. Some conflicts between children are a normal part of growing up and are to be expected. Single incidents and conflicts or fights between equals, whether in person or online, are not considered bullying, even though they may be upsetting and need to be resolved.

Bullying can happen:
- face-to-face (e.g. pushing, tripping, name-calling)
- at a distance (e.g. spreading rumours, excluding someone)
- through information and communications technologies (e.g. use of SMS, email, chat rooms).

PRINCIPAL AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students who received a Principal’s Award at the last whole school assembly.

K Blue - Maleta Lolesio
K Gold - Sophie Quade
K Red - Rhys Ioppi
K White - Savannah Manikis
1 Blue - Poppy Upton
1 Gold - Tyeren Smith
1 Red - Keira Birnie
1 White - Amelia Mansell
2 Blue - Lilly Nedeska
2 Gold - Sarah Taloni
2 Red - Caleb Birch
3 Blue - Thomas Seib
3 Gold - Jake Blakey
3 Red - Jasmine De Jong
3 White - Grace Iirilli
4 Gold - Gurnoor Kaur
4 Red - Eianna Celaya
4 White - Daniel Ossato
5 Blue - Hayden Meadley
5 Red - Claudia Oldfield
5 White - Elijah Bull
6 Blue - Blake Hambrook
6 Gold - Lincoln Picker
6 White - Mia Scrivener
Gold Bands - Alexandra Jeffery (1 Gold) Ainsley McMillan (3 Blue)

PROJECT COMPASSION

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.

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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<tbody>
<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>
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<td>Friday, 3 June</td>
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<td>Writing (Yrs3-6)</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, school website or Skoolbag 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.

24 HOURS FOR THE LORD

In this year of Jubilee focusing on Mercy, the Holy Father has asked parishes around the world to open their churches for 24 hours so people can come and reflect in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

St Raphael’s will be responding to the Holy Fathers request and will be open between 12:30pm Friday 4th March and concluding at 12 noon on Saturday 5th March with a special Mass.

During this time Fr Troy will be available for reconciliation Friday 4th from 2-4pm, 5-7pm and Saturday 5th from 9-11am.

If you are able to come, all would be very welcome!
ST GREGORY’S QUEANBEYAN NEWSLETTER

LIBRARY NEWS

Premiers Reading Challenge 2016

The Challenge will begin this year on 14th March, however, books you have read from 1st September 2015 can be included in your reading list. The library can provide you a loan history to remind you of what you have read.

Registration Forms are available from either campus office or under the notes tab of our school web site or on Skoolbag. Completed forms should be returned to school ASAP.

Please direct any questions to rosalind.wythes@cg.catholic.edu.au

BASKETBALL VOLUNTEERS

In October St Gregory’s School will be hosting the 2016 Catholic Primary School Basketball Championships. This event will run over the weekend of the 22nd and 23rd October at various venues in Queanbeyan and Canberra. We are looking for parents to assist over this weekend. If you are interested please contact Ryan Matchett 6297 2221 or ryan.matchett@cg.catholic.edu.au by Monday 7th March. Further information will then be provided. Thank you - Ryan Matchett Championship Convener.

CROSS COUNTRY

St Gregory’s will be holding their annual Cross Country carnival on Friday, 11th March. The cross country will be held at Wright Park, Queanbeyan. All students from Years 3 to 6 will participate. Junior students will have their FUN RUN at Town Park at a later date.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SOCCER CARNIVAL

The ACT Catholic Primary Schools Soccer Carnival will be held on Sunday, 3rd April at the University of Canberra Playing Fields, Bruce. St Gregory’s are hoping to field teams in the Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 competitions. If your child would like to compete, please collect a note from MacQuoid office or under the notes tab of our school web site or on Skoolbag. Registration forms and money must be returned to school by Friday, 4th March.

Matthew Maloney, PETeacher & Sport Coordinator.

SPORT NEWS

ST GREGORY’S SWIMMING CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to the following students who were presented with their Age Champion medals at Friday’s whole school assembly.

Junior Boys  Emmett Smith
Junior Girls  Angelina Brown
Inter Boys  Aaron Ciuffetelli
Inter Girls  Skyla Robinson-McEvoy
Senior Boys  Toby Goodyer
Senior Girls  Shania Settin

NUDE FOOD WEDNESDAYS

Wrap Free Habits

St Greg’s are urging students to bring a Wrap Free recess and lunch every day but especially on Wednesdays. On this day, we ask that your child’s recess and lunch contain as few items as possible that must be thrown away. Ideally, your child’s lunch will only contain items that may be eaten or composted. By participating, students will have a better understanding of how we can take action to reduce our waste. Wrap free recesses and lunches also save money and promote healthy eating.

Thank you for supporting this initiative.

CANTEEN NEWS

Helpers at Lowe Street this week are:

Thursday 3 March  Erika O’Brien
Friday 4 March   Maureen Ward
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 Baby/Kids Expo & Market 2016
Saturday 5th March
10am-1pm
Queanbeyan PS, Isabella St

Free entry
Free goody bag to the first 300 families
Free raffle tickets—lots of fun prizes for the family
Second hand baby and kids clothes and toys for sale

Food & Business
School BBQ
Community information stalls
Free children’s activities, live entertainment, and meet & great—superheroes Bia & Spiderman

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

Noticeboard

Deanery Assembly
MERCY AND MARRIAGE IN FAMILY LIFE
Saturday 30th April
St Joseph’s School
North Goulburn
9.30 for 10.00am – 3.00pm

Two representatives from St Gregory’s School have been invited in response to the Archbishop’s wish to have follow-up gatherings from the 2016 Archdiocesan Assembly.

If you would like to attend please RSVP to Jane King by 1 April
Ph: 6297 2221 or jane.king@cg.catholic.edu.au

NORTHERN MISSION

Incorporating Queanbeyan, Michelago, Bungendore and Braidwood Parishes

Queanbeyan Kangaroo

Queanbeyan Kangaroo Minor Rugby League

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Queanbeyan Kangaroo

Come and try Orienteering at Karabar High Qbn South PS
Wed March 2nd evening
Brigalow 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’