Dear Parents and Carers,

This year from Sunday 6th March till Saturday 12th March St Gregory’s will join with Catholic schools across NSW and the ACT to celebrate Catholic Schools Week (CSW).

The theme for CSW 2016 is ‘I Belong. You Belong. We Belong.’ which aligns with the Church’s mission to support refugees and asylum seekers at this time in our world where vast number of people are fleeing war and poverty.

The theme also ties in with the global Catholic Church celebration of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, which focuses on pardon, strength and love. Pope Francis sees the Year of Mercy as an opportunity for forgiveness and reconciliation, and is calling on all Catholic communities to extend mercy to those in need, particularly refugees.

Catholic Schools Week is about forging and strengthening relationships between every one who has a stake in our schools – students, staff, families, priests, parishioners, and members of the wider community. Our school has a supportive and talented community of teachers, parents, carers, community council, clergy and support staff who work together to give our students the best education possible.

The special week on the Catholic Schools’ calendar provides an opportunity for the community to be recognise our committed and gifted teachers and support staff for their work in encouraging success, promoting discipline, supporting creativity and instilling compassion in our students.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support of St Gregory’s.

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

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

PRAYERS: We hold in our thoughts and prayers the children preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time and their families. We remember those we love who are sick, particularly Anne Jochimsen. I ask for prayers for my cousin who had brain surgery yesterday.

PRINCIPALS’ RETREAT: Archbishop Christopher Prowse performed a small miracle last week when he was able to have over 50 Principals maintain periods of silence during our retreat. Archbishop Christopher encouraged us to observe the 3 S’s during our prayer – Silence, Stillness and Simplicity. I can highly recommend this approach but appreciate how challenging it is in our busy lives.

THEME: Showing Mercy by practising Forgiveness. Forgiving others can be difficult especially when we feel that they are not worthy of forgiveness. Forgiving ourselves can be equally challenging. God’s Mercy is without bounds.

SABBATH WEEK: Each Term in Week 7 we have a SABBATH WEEK. This is a week free of meetings for teachers and homework for students. We hope it is a week where families can have a little breather before we move towards the end of term. Sabbath Week may be a time when families have a ‘technology free’ evening and play a board game instead. There are so many social skills to be learnt with the humble board game.

DAY OF ACTION AGAINST BULLYING: It can be very distressing to be the parent of a child who is being bullied. Being the parent of a child who is a bully is not easy either… What are the signs your child may be bullying others? You may see or hear from others that your child: • repeatedly teases, imitates or makes fun of the same child • appears to repeatedly dominate or control others • shows no compassion for someone who’s experiencing bullying • repeatedly excludes or ignores the same child • whispers about the same child behind their back on a frequent basis. What you can do if your child is bullying others. It can be upsetting to be told that your child has bullied others. Children who use bullying behaviours need support to learn better ways of relating to others. Stay calm and learn more about your child’s behaviour so that any bullying behaviours can be addressed. Bullying is complex and changing. Children can do the bullying in one situation and be targeted by bullying in another. Children who bully others need help to: • develop their social and emotional skills (especially conflict resolution) and be taught ways to treat others with respect without causing harm • learn about the effect of their behaviour on others and to be supported while learning to repair the harm they have caused • be held responsible for their behaviour and the harm they have caused. For more information visit www.bullyingnoway.gov.au

On Tuesday 5 April we will have a Let’s STAMP Out Bullying incursion in the hall. On this day all students will begin their day at MacQuoid Street campus. QCity Transit have been informed and all buses will drop students off in the morning at MacQuoid Street, not stopping at Lowe. Lowe Street students will walk back to their campus after morning break.

CLASS CONTACTS: Our last desperate plea to the families with students in 2Blue Bridget Allen, 3Red Bella Duke and 6Gold Garreth Wigg/Kate McManus-Green please consider volunteering to be a class contact.

CROSS COUNTRY: I know that students have been training in readiness for this event to be held this Friday. The first race will begin at 12pm with the last race due at 1:30pm. We hope see lots of parents offering support and direction along the course.
WALKATHON

Our 2016 walkathon will be held on Friday 8th April...Last day of Term 1!!!
Our theme this year is to raise awareness against bullying and violence by naming our walkathon A Walk against Bullying and Violence.
Your child is encouraged to come dressed in their St Gregory's House colours.
Each child will receive their sponsorship card on Friday, 18th March.
Every student is encouraged to collect donations, with your supervision.
Money raised will go towards the purchase of more Google Chrome books for our school.

PROJECT COMPASSION

Djilpin Arts Ghunmarn Culture Centre in Beswick. The community-owned venture is supported by Caritas Australia's Development of Cultural Enterprise program.

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.

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.

RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated on the following days:
Tuesday 22 March
3Gold & 3White from 10am in St Gregory’s Church
Wednesday 23 March
3Blue & 3Red from 10am in St Gregory’s Church
(Boys playing in Matt Giteau Cup on this day will complete their Sacrament on Tuesday, 22 March)
- Lauren Macdonald, REC.

MOTHERS DAY STALL

The Mother’s Day Stall will be held on Friday, 6 May, 2016. The aim of the stall is to give students an opportunity to purchase a gift for a special lady in their lives. We are asking all families to please donate a small wrapped gift (clear wrapping please) to the value of approx. $5-00. Please send your gifts to school by 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 boos, tea towels, coffee mugs, etc.
If you would like to volunteer to help with preparing gifts or on the stall on the day please email Di Smith at diannesmith82@gmail.com - Thank you.

‘e-LEARNING’

We have updated elements of the school webpage ‘e-Learning’ section with resources regarding cyber safety and information relevant to apps and social media such as Snapchat, Facebook, Kik Messenger and Instagram for parents and students. Please keep your eye on the school website over the next few weeks, as we add information videos related to other apps, programs, online issues, e-Safety in general and other important videos relating to aspects of educating your children. Videos can be found in the About Us > ‘Resources for Parents’ section of the school website. If you have any questions regarding issues related to this, please contact Garreth Wigg, our school ICT coordinator, via email at garreth.wigg@cg.catholic.edu.au – Garreth Wigg, ICT Coordinator.
LIBRARY NEWS

Premiers Reading Challenge 2016

The PRC site https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html opened for students yesterday, on Monday, 7 March 2016. Thank you to those who have already registered their interest. 180 students so far and of these, 67 are new students. A special thank you to those who saved their logon details from last year, this saves a huge amount of work. I have started to email user names and passwords for those students who had forgotten their user name and password from previous year. Any queries can be directed to rosalind.wythes@cg.catholic.edu.au Please remember to include your child’s name and class in the email.

Thank you - Ros Wythes, Library Assistant.

OUR SCHOOL RULES

Stay Safe,
Be Fair,
Show Respect.

Congratulations to the following students who received a blue band in February: Ashlea Barnes, Liam Carroll, Phoebe Doyle, Gianpiero Gagliardi, Raffaele Gagliardi, Jacob Gruber, Dominic Dorahy, Poppy Upton, Orlando Blazekski, Trinity Debenham, Briony Gagliardi, Matthew Girvan, Jacob Hewson, Brydie Beasley, Keira Birnie, Riley Hambrook, Phoenix Hamlin, Alexandra Bower, Annabella Bromwich, Alexis Lyons, Lucy McCudden, Byron Nye, Timothy Sibraa, Phoebe Beckett, Mariana Calligaro and Makayla Mallia!

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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<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
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<tr>
<td>Digital Tech (Yrs3-6)</td>
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<td>Thursday, 19 May</td>
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<td>Science (Yrs2-6)</td>
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<td>Writing (Yrs3-6)</td>
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<td>Spelling (Yrs3-6)</td>
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<td>English (Yrs2-6)</td>
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<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.

SPORT NEWS

ARCHDIOCESAN SWIMMING CARNIVAL
Congratulations to the junior girls relay team members Giselle Arona, Angelina Brown, Hannah Zutt and Keeva Robinson-McEvoy who will now be representing the Archdiocese in Sydney later in the month.

MACKILLOP BASKETBALL
Congratulations to Lachlan Fitzpatrick on his selection in the Boys MacKillop basketball team. Lachlan will now attend the NSW PSSA trials in Terrigal in Week 2 next term. Well done Lachlan on this great achievement.

LAURIE DALEY/MAL MENINGA
Good luck to the boys who will be representing St Gregory’s tomorrow in the Laurie Daley/Mal Meninga rugby league carnival at Phillip District Oval.

CROSS COUNTRY
St Gregory’s will be holding their annual Cross Country carnival this 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.

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

Further information will then be provided. Thank you - Ryan Matchett Championship Convener.

CANCEEN NEWS

Helpers at Lowe Street this week are:

Tuesday 10 March  Denise Oldfield
Friday 11 March  Bethany Butterfield

Volunteers are always welcome at MacQuoid Street, even if just for an hour or more. Please contact Rosemarie on 6297 2221. Thank you.
3 WHITE ARE TOPPLING!

3White are reading Toppling, which inspired them to have a toppling competition on Friday afternoon. After watching the Guinness World Record topple their aim was for 500,000 dominoes. They didn’t beat the record but gave it their best shot!
NOTICEBOARD

ST GREGORY'S QUEANBEYAN NEWSLETTER

PLAYERS WANTED TO JOIN THE WHITES JUNIOR RUGBY
WE ARE LOOKING FOR PLAYERS AGED 6 TO 18
INTERESTED?

PLEASE EMAIL THE CLUB AT
INFO@WHITESJUNIORRUGBY.ORG.AU

See next page for full text.