Dear Parents and Carers,

As we are all aware, and probably already sick of hearing about, there is to be a Federal Election in July. The various groups contesting seats will have a number of policies that will require our close attention and I certainly do not intend to sprout political ideologies. However, I do encourage all parents of children attending Catholic schools to take an interest in the education funding policies. As often happens in the funding debate figures can be somewhat misleading. It is important to note that schools receive funding from both State and Federal Governments. It is also significant to know that there are 3 types of schools – Government or Public Schools, Private or Independent Schools and Catholic Systemic Schools. St Gregory’s is a Catholic Systemic school which means that we are part of the Catholic Education System for the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

Our school system educates 21,229 boys and girls. We have 1,686 Teachers and Support Staff and a Catholic Education office of 85 staff members who support these schools. The Catholic Education office administers 56 Catholic Schools and 6 Early Learning Centres in the Archdiocese.

May you always be aware of the richness of God’s mercy.

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

PRAYERS: We offer our prayerful support to the McManus family. Patrick Thomas McManus died on Saturday 14th May at Canberra Hospital with his family with him. Patrick is the much loved dad of Kate, and special grandfather of Maddi and Charlotte and admired father-in-law of Paul. We pray too for Patrick’s wife and family.

CONGRATULATIONS: To the students and teachers of Year 4 on the presentation of their assembly last week. They reminded us so well of how important it is to make good choices. The students demonstrated real leadership in the way that they conducted themselves during the assembly and should be very proud of their efforts. Well done to everyone.

GWEN BELL MEMORIAL GARDEN: Last weekend members of the School Community Council, staff and members of Gwen’s family worked hard to establish a garden in memory of our darling Mrs Bell. My thanks to School Council who initiated this initiative. Special thanks to Sybil Busby our plant expert. We are especially appreciative of the generosity of Max Rosin (dad of Stella 1R and Ruby KW) who donated the use of a digger and operator in order to prepare the area and all of the soil. This certainly saved an enormous amount of time and money! The garden looks amazing. Well done to all involved.

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL: This Friday is our Athletics Carnival for students in Year 3-6. This will provide another opportunity for our students to display their talent. We look forward to seeing many parents, friends and carers join the community for the day. We appreciate very much the assistance of volunteers in helping us to run a successful carnival. I remind families that it is expected that unless unwell all students attend and participate to the best of their ability.

SAVE THE DATE: Adjunct Professor Kaye Lowe will be conducting a parent workshop on Tuesday 21st June. I highly recommend this workshop where there will be practical and effective suggestions for assisting children with reading. The following is taken from Kaye’s website http://www.read4success.com.au/ “My interest in reading began as an undergraduate with the desire to help a fourteen year old struggling reader. His success and resultant confidence paved the way for the many hundreds of struggling readers with whom I have successfully worked in preschools, schools, adult education settings, jails, and juvenile justice. My work in educating parents about literacy is significant in assisting struggling readers.” Please check out the website.

ENROLMENT PERIOD: The official enrolment period ends this Friday 20th May. Whilst enrolments can be accepted after this time late applications may need to be added to a waiting list. Year 6 parents are reminded that if their children are to be enrolled in Catholic High Schools applications will need to lodged before next Friday.

PARISH OFFICE PARKING: I have been contacted by the staff of the parish office regarding cars being parked in their assigned parking spots at Lowe Street in the mornings. I would ask that we are respectful of the our Parish Staff and refrain from using these car parking spots. They are for PARISH STAFF ONLY. Your cooperation in this matter is very much appreciated.
Thank you to all the generous donations of toys for the Year 6 students to sell at their toy stall. As well as adding an extra $208.50 to our total for donations to Project Compassion, it also provides our Spirit Team an experience of giving up their time and working to help someone else. Helping our children to become community minded and thoughtful of the less fortunate in our community.

Your continued support is appreciated,
Thank you - Lauren Macdonald, REC.

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**PRINCIPAL AWARDS**

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

- **K Blue**: Annemaria Francis
- **K Gold**: Oliver Donnelly
- **K Red**: Imogen Carnall
- **K White**: Scarlet-Grace Gillman
- **1 Blue**: Jonny Zanetti
- **1 Gold**: Sienna Hamlin
- **1 Red**: Stella Rosin
- **1 White**: Byron Nye
- **2 Blue**: Marko Joveski
- **2 Gold**: Kate Kobak
- **2 Red**: Eve Funnell
- **2 White**: Grace Kobak
- **3 Blue**: Jesse Browne
- **3 Gold**: Regan Terry
- **3 Red**: Miguel Corling
- **3 White**: Angus Lyons
- **4 Gold**: Rory Forbes
- **4 Red**: Domenic Staltari
- **4 White**: Tilly Upton
- **5 Blue**: Arshdeep Singh
- **5 Red**: Nick Coleman
- **5 White**: Jacob De Landre-Line
- **6 Blue**: Jordan Thurling
- **6 Gold**: Grace Horrocks
- **6 White**: Neve Watts
- **Gold Bands**: Riley Hambrook, Alexandra Bower, Phoebe Beckett, Sienna Hamlin

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**LIBRARY NEWS**

**Premiers Reading Challenge 2016**

We currently have 262 students enrolled with 34 students finished and 153 completing online records. Congratulations to the following students who completed their challenge this week Lucy Gawthrop KGold, Billy Greentree 1White, Alyce Greentree 2Blue, Finn Beasley 4White, Alexander May 4White and Sofia Zanetti 4White. Any queries can be directed to rosalind.wythes@cg.catholic.edu.au but please ensure you include your child’s name and class in your email.

**Monster Book Fair - Lowe Street**

Thank you to all the students, parents and carers who attended our Book Fair and made it a great success. We have purchased $600 worth of new books for our Library and we continue to use some money to pay for our subscription to World Book Online. This resource is available to all students both at school and home - it is password protected so please email rosalind.wythes@cg.catholic.edu.au for the user name and password - links can be found on our Oliver home page.

A big thank you to our parent helpers Erika O’Brien (Sean 2 Gold) and Lennon Ryan (Jonathon 1 Red)!! We will publish our prize winners in next week’s newsletter.

Helen Carroll, Ros Wythes, Melissa Greentree

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**CANTEEN NEWS**

Helper at Lowe Street this week are:

- **Thursday 19th May**: Denise Oldfield
- **Friday 20th May**: 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.

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**PROJECT COMPASSION**

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Your continued support in appreciated, Thank you - Lauren Macdonald, REC.

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**HOME READER SESSION**

Getting the most our of home readers session.

- **Friday 20 & 27 May**
  - 9:10 am
  - MPR Lowe Street Campus

NO NEED TO RSVP CHILDREN ARE WELCOME
In October St Gregory’s Primary School is hosting the 2016 NSW CPS basketball championships in Queanbeyan and the ACT. There will be up to 1000 students and their families visiting our region for this tournament. We are seeking any businesses or families who are able to sponsor our event. Please contact Ryan Matchett, Championships Convenor at St Gregory’s on 62972221 or by email ryan.matchett@cg.catholic.edu.au for further information.

Thank you - Ryan Matchett

BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

The theme of National Reconciliation Week this year is Our History, Our Future, Our Story. Throughout the week students will explore this theme with their teachers and discuss the importance of Reconciliation in our world. St Greg’s will also be involved in several exciting activities during this week. On Tuesday 31st May all Indigenous students in years 2-6 and all of year 6 will be attending the Queanbeyan Reconciliation Walk. On Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd June Larry Brandy, an Aboriginal performer and storyteller will be visiting. All grades will participate in a 1 hour workshop with Larry. On Friday 3rd June we are inviting students to celebrate Reconciliation and cultural diversity by allowing students to wear their National dress or clothes for the day. This is not a mufti day and all students are expected to wear full school uniform if they ARE NOT IN CULTURAL DRESS.

LOOKING FORWARD TO A GREAT WEEK!

RYAN MATCHETT - ABORIGINAL CONTACT

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK
27th May - 3rd June

Congratulations to everyone who has brought their walkathon money in. So far the total of the 2016 Walkathon is $15,390.00

Just a reminder if you still have not returned your walkathon money please do as soon as possible.

OUR SCHOOL RULES

Stay Safe,
Be Fair,
Show Respect.
Performing Arts Program
Applications for placement in Karabar High School’s Performing Arts Program in 2017 are now open. Application forms are available from St Greg’s office. Completed application forms are due to Karabar High School by 3rd June.

Any queries phone Alison Cronan at Karabar on 6298 4333 or by email alison.cronan@det.nsw.edu.au

Fire & Rescue NSW
This year Fire & Rescue NSW is hosting its Annual Open Day on Saturday 21 May, 10am – 2pm. This is a fantastic opportunity for children and their parents to meet their local firefighters and learn all about fire safety in the home.

Our local Queanbeyan Fire Station at 41 Campbell Street, will be opening its doors to celebrate Open Day with all sorts of fun activities planned for the kids, including being able to hop aboard a real working fire truck and hold a fire hose, and get a show bag full of goodies while chatting with real firefighters about what they do. They will also be providing a free Sausage Sizzle for everyone.

With the onset of winter just around the corner, learning as much as you can about home fire safety is really important — winter is the worst time of the year for house fires.

So make sure you reserve the date and head down to Queanbeyan Fire Station on Saturday 21 May!

Further information Contact Queanbeyan Fire Station on: 6297 2332

Italian for Kids @ Queanbeyan
Start Date & Time: 28th April 2016, Thursday
End Date & Time: 30th June 2016, Thursday
Venue: St. Gregory’s Parish, 47 Lowe St.
Time/Fee (Lowe st students) : 3.00 to 4.30 p.m.; $165.00 per child
Time/Fee (McQuoid st students) : 3.20 to 4.30 p.m.; $155.00 per child
Sibling discounts apply. Please make a request at enrolment.

Note: The LCF Italian Teacher will accompany your child at Lowe St Campus to St. Gregory’s Parish from 3.00 p.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

Auditions – Auditions – Auditions
In the next few weeks Acting Antics will be holding auditions for their gala performance of...

"ROCKETMAN"
Ex-President of the Intergalactic Space Council, Regano, has escaped from Alcatrais and is planning a comeback. Can Princess Zara and her fearless Solar Knights hold off Regano & the Androids until Wing Commander Wang & his brave fighters, Nav, Tech and Brash arrive? Will Rocketman ever arrive & what have Froth & Perk from the Jupiter Bean café & Momento & Secondo, spies extraordinaire, been up to?

IF YOU LOVE TO ACT, DRESS-UP & PERFORM THIS IS THE PROGRAM FOR YOU!
St Gregory’s School - Lowe Street Campus - Multi Purpose Room
Wednesdays 3:30-4:30pm - Performance Actor (7-12yrs)

PERFORMANCE ACTING classes build confidence while developing acting, presentation & performance skills. Curriculum covers improvisation, the actor’s voice, characterization, movement & mime, stagecraft, the audition & rehearsal process & theatre etiquette.

TEACHER Monica Engel has 8 years experience in primary & secondary schools teaching art, music & drama & has just completed her Diploma in Musical Theatre.

Fees: Season 1 (Term 1 & 2) pro-rata fees $144.00 (students from all schools welcome - start any time)
Registration & Enquiries: www.actingantics.com - admin@actingantics.com - 0409 507773

SMALL UNIFORM ALTERATIONS
If you require small alterations to your child’s uniforms please contact Betty Crowe on 0408 842 992

Sunrise Netball
Sunrise Netball Club are looking for more players.
If you are interested in playing netball and are either 8 turning 9 or 7 turning 8 contact the club secretary on sunrisesecretary@outlook.com or 0428 004 202