Dear Parents and Carers,

Over the weekend I was alerted to some issues that some Year 6 students were experiencing when accessing social media, in particular Instagram. If you are like me, you will have a basic understanding of the various social media sites. I also appreciate that our children appear to know so much more. The fact is that our students also have a limited knowledge of the various platforms – whilst they may sound like they are on top of it all.

I also know how talented our students can be when they badger their parents about being allowed access to social media. I hear the lines – everyone else is allowed to! It used to be that we had to protect our children from strangers outside our homes but with the internet we need to diligent inside our homes. If you do not have rules in your home about internet and device access I think it is worth considering banning use in bedrooms. The following is taken from a cyber-safety website.

Instagram is a lovely app…for adults. Yes, it’s available for teens aged 13+ but here’s the thing: Instagram is really a search engine for billions of images. Your child can search for anything on Instagram: cats, celebrities, dogs, funny photos and…pornography. Instagram is also a photo sharing and messaging app. For cyber savvy parents the biggest problem is that if you have any adult content filters on your child’s device or on your home internet, Instagram bypasses all of these. It’s an app, so it won’t be able to be filtered for adult or violent content.

The type of content your child can come across via a perfectly innocent search within Instagram’s search engine could include: drug use, violence, pornography, gun sales, sub-cultures that include pageant style beauty and ugly competitions, anorexic and self-harm cultures, sexual role playing, pretty much anything really. Kids also share hashtags (search terms) for Instagram, and even though some obvious search terms on Instagram like #boobs are banned by the site, other more obscure versions have been created to take their place.

Instagram and popular messaging app, Kik Messenger also have a very unhealthy relationship. Putting the search term for Kik user names “#KikMe” in Instagram not only brings up every single user with their Kik name on their Instagram profile…over 15 million now…but also the most explicit type of pornography available on the internet.

How do you prevent your child from using the search feature in Instagram? You can’t.

You can, and should enable the “Posts are Private” setting under the “Edit Profile” setting. This will hide your child’s pictures from public viewing. it also means they must approve. https://thecybersafetylady.com.au

Please be assured that we monitor internet access at school. We are also proactive in promoting cyber safety with our students. Whilst we cannot be responsible for what students do out of schools on their devices we are very happy to offer support and assistance to parents.

“ar walkingly, to be negative, means not to recognise our deepest identity. It is like walking away when God want to look at me, trying to spoil his dream for me. God loves us the way we are, an no sin, fault or mistake of ours makes him change his mind. As far as Jesus is concerned – as the Gospel shows – no one is unworthy of, or far from, his thoughts. No one is insignificant.” Pope Francis’ homily to young people at World Youth Day, Krakow, Poland.

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

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

PRAYERS: We continue to hold in our thoughts and prayers the Beckett family and all those who are mourning the loss of a loved one. We remember those who are currently receiving treatment for serious medical conditions. We pray too for our Year 6 students and their families as they prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

CONGRATULATIONS: To KBlue and KGold on a fantastic assembly last Friday. They certainly got across the message that it is “Okay to make Mistakes”. The highlight was definitely the enthusiastic health hustle towards the end of the assembly. Mrs Tanti and Mr Hunt certainly demonstrated amazing fitness and appeared to be enjoying themselves! It was wonderful to see the older students joining in with the moves and singing. Well done to all the children – it was so lovely to hear so many fantastic readers in Kindergarten!

NLNW: National Literacy and Numeracy Week (NLNW) is an annual event celebrating the importance of literacy and numeracy to future learning, life participation and work opportunities. Getting involved in NLNW is a great way for parents, schools and the community to help kids develop their literacy and numeracy skills. Digital Literacy is being introduced this year as part of the week to raise awareness of the importance of digital literacy as one of the foundation skills for the workforce in the 21st Century. Digital literacy involves knowing how to use a range of technologies to find information, solve problems or complete tasks. Digital literacy is also about knowing how to act safely and respectfully online. It is important that all children and young people in Australia learn to become ‘digitally literate’ in a safe and supportive environment, engaging with the materials, data, systems, tools and equipment that are available in their schools and communities. The website has some great resources and information. https://www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au/

SPECIAL VISITORS: Our Year 6 students were blessed by a visit from the Missionaries of Charity and members of the parish yesterday. This visit coincides with the canonization of Mother Teresa this weekend. The talk was informative and inspiring; some of the visiting sisters and parishioners had met and spent time with Mother Teresa. Each story of a personal encounter with Mother Teresa, related the special quality this woman possessed that made people feel as they were the only person in her presence, despite being amongst hundreds and even thousands of others. The visit was also timely because the Year 6 students are preparing to make their Confirmation and have chosen a saint who is their personal model of faith. The sisters encouraged the students to reflect on their saint and consider what God’s call for them is within their own lives, inspiring them to take action even in the smallest of ways. We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop. Mother Teresa

LOST PROPERTY: The lost property at MacQuoid Street has now be relocated to the sport shed. This allows for easy access for the students. The Year 5 and 6 students who supervise the borrowing of sport equipment can also go through the lost property and ensure that labelled items are returned to the students. The sport shed is open throughout the day and parents are welcome to access the Lost Property.

2017 ENROLMENTS: Due to the number of enrolments for Kindergarten 2017 we now have a waiting list.

CANTEEN SURVEY: Have you completed our canteen survey yet? https://goo.gl/forms/M1WAK6poZockmhtp2

CATHOLICCARE PARENTING WORKSHOPS: For parents who have or soon will have adolescents to deal with I highly recommend the following. I appreciate that time is very precious but these workshops may end up preventing turmoil at home – as the ad says ‘Priceless’. The program is called The Resourceful Adolescent Program for Parents (RAP-P) and is suitable for parents and carers of students in Year 5 – 12. RAP-P will help you: help your teenager to develop healthy self-esteem, help your teenager to gain independence while still feeling safe and part of the family, manage your stress so you can do your best job as a parent, prevent and manage conflict with your teenager and promote harmony in your family. The course is offered 3 hours per week over a 3 week period – Wednesdays 7th, 14th and 21st September 6-9pm at 57 Hicks Street Red Hill. Fee is $80 but there are concessions available – if the only thing stopping you is the price please email me… BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL 61626100.

NB: CHANGE OF VENUE TO MACQUOID STREET FOR FATHERS DAY BREAKFAST

Due to a forecast of torrential rain we have decided to move Father’s Day Breakfast to MacQuoid Street. Looking forward to seeing lots of our dads on Friday morning from 7:30am for breakfast. Happy Fathers’ Day to all our dads for this Sunday.
This week is National Literacy and Numeracy Week across Australia. At St Greg's we will be holding the 2016 St Greg's Math Olympics, where each class will work together to complete 3 challenge questions each day. Scores will then be tallied to decide who will be presented with Gold, Silver or Bronze. Some interesting number facts about the recent Olympics held in Rio include:

As it is also family week this week, please ensure you take the time to participate in some mathematical fun: cook a cake, play cards, read the numbers on letter boxes as you go for a walk, play a board game, estimate your shopping bill, learn your times table (plenty of songs/Apps available for this).

If you have a question or topic that you would like addressed about Mathematics, please email me: kate.mcmanusgreen@cg.catholic.edu.au

PRINCIPAL AWARDS

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

K Blue  Bianca Chase
K Red   Victoria MacDonald
K Gold  Marissa Maiolo and Angel Walia
1 Blue  Campbell Madden
1 Gold  Molly Oldfield
1 Red   Jared Oldfield
1 White Jorjia Blakey
2 Gold  Chloe Gowland
2 Red   Noah Girvan
3 Blue  April Taylor
3 Gold  Jessica Redpath
3 Red   Isabel Hagel
4 Gold  Laila Gatt
4 Red   Chloe Amey
4 White Finn Beasley
5 Blue  Bharat Sharma
5 Red   Beau Cox
6 Blue  Tahj Guglielmin and Sophie Hagel
6 Gold  Brandyn Ross
6 White Jacynthah Blakey and Anthony Kopec
Gold Band Orlando Blazeski
AR Millionaires Lara Burstow and Erin Burstow

BOOK WEEK

Thank you to all the students and teachers who came to our Book Parade in costume. Everyone looked absolutely amazing. We also thank parents and friends for helping with costumes and coming to celebrate the day.

Our winners for Book Week Competitions:

• Colour in competition - Jessica Bojko - 2White
  Jennifer Noveski - 4Red
  Samantha Black - 5Blue
  Brielle Carter - 6White
  Shai Irvin - 6Gold

• Guessing competition - Mia Duff - 3White

• Quote of the Day - Laura Virgo - 2Blue

• Classroom Door Competition - This year was extremely difficult to judge with so many fantastic door poster entries. 6White was drawn out from a box as the overall winner. Thanks again to teachers and students for promoting this year’s theme: Australial Story Country.

- Melissa Greentree (Teacher/Librarian - MacQuoid St)

LIBRARY NEWS

As it is also family week this week, please ensure you take the time to participate in some mathematical fun: cook a cake, play cards, read the numbers on letter boxes as you go for a walk, play a board game, estimate your shopping bill, learn your times table (plenty of songs/Apps available for this).

If you have a question or topic that you would like addressed about Mathematics, please email me: kate.mcmanusgreen@cg.catholic.edu.au

OUR SCHOOL RULES

Stay Safe,
Be Fair,
Show Respect.

CANTEEN NEWS

Helpers at Lowe Street this week are:
Thursday 1 September  Michelle Welch
Friday 2 September  June Lawrence

Volunteers are always welcome at MacQuoid Street, even if just for an hour or more. Please contact Rosemarie on 6297 2221. Thank you.
Queanbeyan & Districts Junior Cricket Club
2016/17 season from now & until registration dates.
The dates & venues for registration are as follows: Riverside Plaza;
Thursday 1st & 8th September from 5.30pm – 8.30pm.
Saturday 3rd & 10th September from 9am – 12pm.
Registrations can also be done online through the
Mick Hunter - Secretary QDJCC - 0405 080 623 (mick)