



ST GREGORY'S QUEANBEYAN NEWSLETTER

Week Eight, Term Three, 2016
6 September, 2016



Share the Spirit....

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week is *National Child Protection Week*. This week is a reminder that we all must play our part in promoting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. This year NAPCAN encourages us to build on "Protecting Children is Everyone's Business: Play Your Part" by focussing on the theme 'Stronger Communities, Safer Children'. This theme emphasises the importance and value of connected communities in keeping children and young people safe and well.

To coincide with Child Protection Week, the Australian Catholic Church's Child Protection Sunday will be next Sunday 11th September.

The images of child sexual assault have continued to affect our entire community and diminish the trust some have placed in our church. That trust has been further eroded when the institution had failed to appropriately respond to the victim's needs.

Yet the Catholic Church is in a unique position to offer much within this focus of creating stronger communities, safer children. One such example can be seen in Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* in which families and consequently communities are encouraged through love, strengthened by the virtues of generosity, commitment, fidelity and patience to become stronger more capable and more resilient. Stronger families and School and Church communities can help to keep our children safe.

As the Royal Commission begins to finalise hearings and close registrations for private sessions, Child Protection Week, and in particular Child Protection Sunday provides a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the steps we have taken to make children safer in our communities; at home, in our churches, schools and Catholic agencies.

Here at St Gregory's we can see evidence of the strength of our community providing support, protection and opportunities to help keep our children safe through our community events such as the Fathers' Day Breakfast last week, our strong links with the parish, our parent contacts, our involvement as a KidsMatter school, the pastoral care provided by our staff to our students and their families, efforts to continually improve communication such as the recent launch of our Face Book page, the provision of parent workshops such as the Social Media and Cyber Safety information night tonight and the continual building of effective relationships between homes and our school.

Our Prayer for Stronger Communities, Safer Children

Gracious God you said let the children come to me.

The hurt felt by those wounded by abuse weighs heavily upon us.
Often trust has been eroded when institutions failed to appropriately respond to their needs.

Lord, we as your Church stand in need of your healing and help.

We ask you God to strengthen and guide all in our Catholic communities.

Grant us wisdom in our time to make decisions that protect children and the vulnerable.

May our families and communities through love, generosity, commitment and patience build stronger communities safe for our children.

Let your grace and love fall gently upon our children giving them the inner strength, peace and resilience they will need for their life's journey.

We ask you God to help our Catholic communities to be resolute in building a community where our children both flourish and are safe.

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

Claire

**Claire Frazer
Principal**



IMPORTANT EVENTS

Tuesday 6 September

Cyber Safety and Awareness Information
Session for parents - 6:15pm St Gregs Hall

Wednesday 7 September

Year 4 Mass - 12:30pm St Gregory's Church
Parent/Child Confirmation Prayer Reflection
7pm St Raphael's Church

Thursday 8 - Friday 9 September

Year 4 Camp - Warrambui

Friday 9 September

Confirmation Candidates Retreat Day and
Practice Sessions

Year 2 excursion to Belconnen Markets

Second Hand Clothing Pool Open

9am to 10am & 2:30pm to 3:30pm Lowe St

Saturday 10 September

Sacrament of Confirmation
5:30pm St Raphael's Church

Sunday 11 September

Sacrament of Confirmation
9am St Raphael's Church

Sacrament of Confirmation
11am St Raphael's Church

Monday 12 - Friday 23 September

Year 3 and 4 swimming lessons
Queanbeyan Aquatic Centre

Monday 12 September

Archdiocesan Public Speaking
St Mary's School, Moruya

Second Hand Clothing Pool Open

9am to 10am & 2:30pm to 3:30pm Lowe St

Tuesday 13 September

CPS Netball Carnival - Penrith

Wednesday 14 September

Year 6 Mass - 12:30pm St Gregory's Church

Thursday 15 September

Choir Eisteffod - Goulburn

Friday 16 September

Whole School Assembly (K Red/K White)
12:30pm St Gregory's Hall

Second Hand Clothing Pool Open

9am to 10am & 2:30pm to 3:30pm Lowe St

Monday 19 - Friday 23 September

Year 6 Camp - Narrabeen

Monday 19 September

Second Hand Clothing Pool Open

9am to 10am & 2:30pm to 3:30pm Lowe St



Focus Value for September - 'Share God's Mercy by Looking on the Bright Side'

From the Principal.....

PRAYERS: This weekend our Year 6 students will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. This is a very significant occasion for our students. Please keep these students and their families in your prayers. We pray to the newest saint in the Catholic Church – Saint Mother Teresa who has a special connection to Queanbeyan.

THANKYOU: To the wonderful St Gregory's staff who arrived at school extra early last Friday in order to cook breakfast for our dads and families. It was a wonderful community occasion with the added bonus that we raised \$600 for HOME in Queanbeyan. As usual the staff were very generous with their time and energy.

FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS: Today we had a wonderful day celebrating our Patron Saint – Saint Gregory the Great. Our whole school Mass was a fitting way to celebrate our Saint and the many blessings that are showered upon our school through his intercession. The lunch provided by the many parents who volunteered to assist was as usual well received. It is a wonderful reflection of the great community spirit that so many are able to assist and I know for many it meant shuffling work commitments – thank you. The students enjoyed the activities including peer activities and concert. My thanks to our Religious Education Coordinator – Lauren Macdonald – who coordinated all the activities. Another great day!

TONIGHT: The information session about cyber safety is on tonight – 6:15pm in our School Hall. This session is being presented by ThinkUKnow, a network of trained law enforcement members and accredited volunteers who deliver up to date cyber safety education for students, parents and teachers. This group facilitated the staff meeting for our teachers today.

YEAR 4 CAMP: Our Year 4 students are off to an overnight camp this Thursday to Warrambui near Murrumbateman. This is the first step in our camping experience for our students. Overnight in Year 4, two nights in Year 5 building up to a 4 night camp in Year 6. I know of students currently in Year 12 who speak of their Year 6 camp as the greatest experience in their schooling career. My thanks to Ben Mocker, Christine Washington, Matthew Maloney and Erin Taylor and their families, for their generosity in giving so generously of their time so that students can have the camping experience. As in past years Fr. Troy and I will be visiting for dinner on Thursday night.

STAFF ABSENCES: As usually happens in winter a number of our teachers have succumbed to illness requiring them to take sick leave. We have also had a number of staff needing to take carer's leave to care for sick children or elderly parents. Teachers are also required to participate in Professional Development. When teachers are absent the leadership team member who has the task of arranging relief must try to secure the services of a relief teacher. We have a limited list of relief teachers that we can call upon due mainly to our close location to the ACT. Teachers in the ACT must be a member of the Teaching Quality Institute and have a working with vulnerable people card. Teachers in NSW must be registered with BOSTES and have a working with children check. This all of course costs money as well as paperwork to maintain accreditation and like most bureaucracy they are not transferable across borders. Catholic Education has a list of relief teachers but not all are accredited to teach in NSW. Frustratingly it is sometimes necessary to split classes. I do appreciate that this is not ideal but assure you that it is always our last resort.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION (CEC), Archdioceses of Canberra and Goulburn is seeking your advice. The CEC is looking at the future provision of Catholic Secondary schooling in the ACT over the next 20 years. We need parents to take part in this study to ensure that they have a clear picture for future requirements. For further information please go to the CE Website <https://cg.catholic.edu.au/> or click on the link to complete the survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TTB3T28>

FACEBOOK: Have you liked our Facebook page yet? Our page was launched on the 26th August and already we have 250 likes! If you have a child in Year 4 or Year 6 keep up to date what they are up to at camp by following our Facebook page.

Find us on 

<https://www.facebook.com/StGregorysPrimarySchool/>

ARCHDIOCESAN PUBLIC SPEAKING: Next Monday Eden D'Souza Year 5 will represent the Northern Region at the Archdiocesan Public Speaking Competition to be held at St Mary's Moruya. You are already a champion Eden but look luck next Monday.

NEW EQUIPMENT: The students of Mac are enjoying using the new soccer goals and volleyball net during break times. The students have been very respectful in caring the equipment and they are working hard at ensuring everyone has a fair go!

LOST PROPERTY: Just a reminder that the lost property at Mac is now located in the Sport Shed. There will be a 2-week time limit before items without names will be sent to the Clothing Pool. Please, please check to ensure that labels on all items are still clear and easy to read.



SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

St Gregory's School communicates with parents by various means.

The **Newsletter** is uploaded to the school website on Tuesday each week (<http://stgregsps.nsw.edu.au/newsletter/>). It is also emailed to many families. 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



We also have the **St Gregory's Skoolbag App**, which is a smart phone mobile app through which the school can communicate directly with iPhone and Android devices. The newsletter, notes, alerts, information, instant messages and reminders are updated regularly on Skoolbag. We encourage all families to download the App. To install, search for our school name "St Gregory's School Queanbeyan" in either the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.



Twitter @stgregsqbn enables the school to broadcast short messages about events happening during the day, updates on school excursions, camps and sporting events.



Facebook for updates, information and photos of school life as it happens.



In addition, an **online calendar** listing school activities and special events is available on the school website. Calendar dates are also listed in the Important Events section on the front page of the newsletter each week.

Qkr! for Payments



St Gregory's now has Qkr!

Qkr! makes school payments a breeze. Parents can pay school fees, pay for items purchased from clothing pool and order lunches from either school canteens using their mobile phone. Download Qkr! from either the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.



Parents know to read to their kids at night, but what about math? **Bedtime Math** is a great app with a simple mission: to make math a fun part of kids' everyday lives, as beloved as the bedtime story. Choose the Math Problem of the Day, or explore over 1600 additional math

problems with various zany topics, ranging from electric eels and chocolate chips to roller coasters and flamingos. Each has three levels of challenge ("Wee Ones," "Little Kids," and "Big Kids"), and many also have harder questions ("The Sky's the Limit") for really big kids, grown-ups, and anyone who's feeling brave! Make it a part of your family's routine today!

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

YRS 3 & 4 LEARN TO SWIM PROGRAM

The Years 3 and 4 Learn to Swim Program will commence next Monday 12th September and continue every day until the last day of term, Friday 23rd September.

Swimming lesson times are as follows:

9:30am – 10:00am	4 Gold
10:00am – 10:30am	3 Red
10:30am – 11:00am	3 Blue
11:00am – 11:30am	4 White
12:00pm – 12:30pm	4 Red
12:30pm – 1:00pm	3 Gold
1:00pm – 1:30pm	3 White

All students will walk to and from the pool and will leave school approximately 30 minutes before their scheduled lesson time.

PARKING AT LOWE ST

Parents are reminded **NOT** to park in the parish carpark or in the driveway at Lowe Street. This is reserved for parish staff and visitors.

Please use the showground carpark if no spaces are available in Lowe Street.

Thank you.

CANTEEN NEWS

Helpers at Lowe Street this week are:

Thursday 8 September Daphne Gagliardi
Friday 9 September Betty Ivanos

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



OUR SCHOOL RULES

**Stay Safe,
Be Fair,
Show Respect.**

Congratulations to the following students who received a Blue Band in August for exceeding school rules:

Eva Celeska, Payton Berry, Jai Blakey, Oliver Donnelly, Aprika Joshi, Cameron Bojko, Jay Stonham, Harvey Canestrari, Owen O'Grady, Chelsea Rogers, Phoebe Doyle, Jacob Gruber, Angus Dale, Angelo Staltari, Isabella Jarrett, Lucy Lasker, Grace Iirilli, Sophia Watson and Grace Hayes.

CLOTHING POOL SALE



September 2 for 1 Sale!
Open every **MONDAY** and **FRIDAY**
from 9 - 10am and from 2:30 - 3:30pm
Buy any 2 items for \$5-00!

NORTHERN MISSION

St Gregory's Parish



Queanbeyan
Michelago
Bungendore
Braidwood

PARISH OFFICE DETAILS:

Open: 9am - 3:30pm Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
(Closed for lunch 1-1:30pm and all day Monday & Wednesdays)

Address: 47 Lowe St, Queanbeyan
Postal: PO Box 175 Queanbeyan 2620
Phone: 6299 4611

Email: queanbeyan@cg.org.au
Web: www.stgregorysparishqueanbeyan.com

Weekday & Weekend Masses

Saturday 5:30pm St Raphael's, Queanbeyan
Sunday 9:00am & 5:30pm St Raphael's, Queanbeyan
Sunday 8:30am St Bede's, Braidwood
1st Sundays 11am Ss Peter & Paul, Hoskinstown
3rd Sundays 9am St Joseph's, Gundaroo
5th Sundays 12noon St Brigid's, Krawarree
Saturday 5:30pm St Mary's, Bungendore
2nd Saturday 5pm St Patrick's, Michelago
Monday NO MASS
Tuesday 5:30pm St Raphael's, Queanbeyan
Wednesday 7:00am St Raphael's, Queanbeyan
Wednesday 9:00am St Mary's, Bungendore
Thursday 7:00am St Raphael's, Queanbeyan
Friday 12noon St Raphael's, Queanbeyan
1st Wednesdays 10:00am George Forbes House
2nd Wednesdays 11:00am Warrigal (Kawaree)
4th Wednesdays 11:00am Queanbeyan Nursing Home
There will not be morning prayer on Saturday mornings
Fridays 11:00am-11:55am Exposition & Adoration St Raphael's, Qbn
Fri 11:30am-11:50am, Sat 4:30-5pm Reconciliation St Raphael's, Qbn
Sundays during 9am mass Children's Liturgy (ages 3-9yrs)
1st, 3rd & 4th Sun 10:30am Baptisms St Raphael's Church, Qbn
2nd & 4th weekends (Sat) 5:30pm/(Sun) 9am Baptism Presentations
Marriages By Appointment
Mondays 10:00am-12noon Craft Group, Parish Meeting Room
1st Wednesdays 12:30pm Cancer Support Group Ph: 6297 1912
Wednesdays 1:30pm-3pm Prayer Group, Parish Meeting Room

NOTICEBOARD



10-11 SEPTEMBER

COME AND TALK TO YOUR LOCAL BRIGADE ABOUT THE FIRE RISK IN YOUR AREA. IT COULD SAVE YOUR FAMILY AND HOME FROM BUSH FIRES.

Date: Sunday 11th September 2016
Location: Ridgeway Rural Fire Station
2 Highland Close, The Ridgeway
Time: 10am - 3pm

PREPARE → ACT → SURVIVE

TO FIND OUT MORE GO TO RFS.NSW.GOV.AU



School's Out Holiday Care Queanbeyan
for September/October holidays! Book now.
Monday 26 September - Friday 7 October

Schools Out Queanbeyan service. 8:00am-6:00pm.
Daily sports coaching and excursion activities!
Excursions include Power Kart Racing/Jungle Golf, Movies, Lets Play Indoor play centre, I play arcade and dodgem cars, Ten Pin Bowling and more! Register now!
Daily sports coaching sessions: Hip hop dance sessions, Soccer and Cricket.
CCB/Rebate available. Phone: 0414607396
Check www.schoolsoutcare.com.au to download an enrolment form or email: schoolsout@netspeed.com.au



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 My Cricket website <http://mycricket.cricket.com.au/>
Mick Hunter - Secretary QDJCC - 0405 080 623 (mick)