Dear Parents and Carers,

2017 St Gregory’s Staff

Principal: Claire Frazer
Assistant Principal: Erin Taylor
Religious Education Coordinator: Kate McManus-Green
Administration and ICT Coordinator: Garreth Wigg
Curriculum Coordinator and Support Teacher: Valerie Sheahan
Wellbeing Coordinator: Ben Mockler
Support Teacher: Maryann Tarrant
Teacher Librarians: Melissa Greentree (MacQuoid), Helen Carroll (Lowe)
Library Assistant: Rosalind Wythes
Office Manager: Jane King
Office Lowe: Karen Nothard
School Fee Bursar: Emma McAuliffe
Sport and PDHPE: Matthew Maloney
Music and Choir Director: Dee McFaul
Italian: Lorena Nesa
Aboriginal Contact Teacher: Ryan Matchett
Literacy and Numeracy Action Team: Erin Taylor, Valerie Sheahan, Kelly Delaney, Kristy Poole, Veronica Hall, Caroline Tanti, Janessa Docking, Françoise Hewson
Kindergarten: Daniel Hunt, Caroline Tanti, Jessica Musgrave, Kate Wigg/Janessa Docking
Year 1: Laura Goodall, Katie Brook, Pam Brown, Michelle Hill/Kellie D’Souza
Year 2: Greg Tarrant, Bridget Allen, Maddie Harman, Kelly Delaney/Kristi Lloyd
Year 3: Ryan Matchett, Karen Mahony, Sybil Busby, Des Gomez
Year 4: Christine Washington, James Prpic, Ben Mockler/Valerie Sheahan
Year 5: Brad Brown, Veronica Hall, Jamie Marmont
Year 6: Françoise Hewson, Marian Wells/Carole Saad, Garreth Wigg/Kate McManus-Green
Learning Support Assistants: Michelle Comerford, Stefanie Jones, Paula Howard, Rita Pelle, Di Rouse, Paula Howard
Canteen: Rosemarie Conroy (MacQuoid), Helen Brownlie (Lowe)
Groundsman: Vince Walsh

My prayer for all members of our community is for a peace-filled and joyful Christmas spent with those you love.

Claire Frazer
Principal
PRAYERS: As Christmas draws closer we remember those who find this time of year a time of sadness or stress. For some it will mean the first Christmas without a loved one who has died. For some family tensions mean that it is a time of high anxiety. For some financial burdens can be overwhelming. We pray that Jesus remains the centre of our celebrations.

CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations to Amanda Ducker, her husband Steve and their two daughters on the birth of Kimberly Rachel last Tuesday. Mother and baby are both well, a lovely Christmas arrival for the family.

GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK: As the school year draws to an end we will sadly farewell staff. Lauren Macdonald began teaching at St Gregory’s as Miss Barlow in 2005. During her time here we have shared in the joy of her marriage to Gus and the birth of her two children, Ingrid and Robbie. Lauren was appointed as REC in 2011. A role she has performed with great passion. We wish Lauren every success at her new school St Francis of Assisi Calwell where she will be the Literacy Coordinator.

Keryn Thiele has been a long term teacher at St Greg’s, since 2001 when she joined us as Miss Blackburn. Keryn has decided that it is time to try a new school. Keryn successfully applied for a one way transfer and next year will be at St Jude’s Holder. Keryn will be very much missed and we wish her the very best.

Amy Hazell joined our staff as a beginning teacher in 2014 when she taught Year 6. Amy demonstrated her adaptability when the following year she switched to Kindergarten teaching K White for 2015 and 2016. Amy successfully applied for a permanent teaching position and will be joining the community of Good Shepherd Amaroo next year. Amy will be teaching some very lucky Kindergarten students in 2017 and we wish her every success.

We wish the very best to Emma Gibson and Sarah Cook who are expecting babies. Emma and her husband Ryan are awaiting the arrival of their fourth child who will join siblings – Hugh, Tom and Georgia. Sarah and her husband Dave are expecting their first baby. The staff at St Gregory’s certainly keep St Gerard Majella the patron saint of expecting mums on his toes.

Goodbye and thank you to Geoff Griffiths our ICT Assistant for the past 2 years. Geoff will be taking up a new position with Hewlett Packard in Adelaide in the new year.

END OF YEAR MASS: The Mass last Friday morning was a prayerful and joyous celebration. The students were extremely reverent and responded well to the parts of the Mass. The highlight for me was seeing all Year 6 standing on the sanctuary at the end of Mass singing – Our God is Great. They sang with passion and gusto. A truly wonderful way to end the year. The following is an excerpt from an email from a parent who attended the Mass. Congratulations on putting together such a powerful, joyous, uplifting celebration today. The children again folllowed the teachers’ example of displaying reverence, participation and pride in St Gregory’s. The singing of choir and congregation, and musical accompaniment by Dee and Des was magnificent. Please pass on my commendations to all.

FAMILIES LEAVING ST GREGORY’S: The Year 6 graduating class of 2016 means the end of some long family associations at St Greg’s. There are also some families who are moving out of Queanbeyan or students in other grades moving on. I thank the families and their children for their contribution to the St Gregory’s community and I wish you every success as you continue the education journey. You are always welcome at St Gregory’s and will be in our thoughts and prayers.

STEP-UP: All students will participate in the Step-Up session this Thursday during the afternoon session. The 2016 Year 1 students will be walked to MacQuoid Street by the current Kindergarten teachers. Students will have the opportunity to meet their 2017 teacher, see the classroom and will take home a letter from the teacher.

CONTACT DETAILS: if you need to make contact with the school during the holiday period please use the following email as it will be checked on a regular basis - office.stgregs@cg.catholic.edu.au

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES: St Gregory’s Parish

Christmas Vigil – St Gregory’s School Hall 6pm with carols from 5:15pm
Midnight Mass – St Raphael’s Church with carols from 11:15pm
Christmas Day – St Raphael’s Church 8am and 10am
At Christmas, may you be blessed with a heart that only knows love. May the baby Jesus teach you to pass your blessings to all those around you.

May you have a blessed Christmas

CHOIR AUDITIONS

When: Choir auditions will be held in Week 1 and 2 of First Term 2017. Rehearsals will start in Week 3.

Who can audition? Any students who will be in Year 3-6 in 2017 can audition. Students who sang at the Eisteddfod 2016, are automatically in the choir and do not need to reaudition. However I would appreciate if they can let me know if they are not continuing Choir. If your child wishes to audition please email me on dee.mcfaul@cg.catholic.edu.au prior to school commencing next year.

How to prepare: Students will be required to sing either Happy Birthday or Advance Australia Fair with piano accompaniment. They will need to be able to sing all the lyrics from memory.

They will also do some simple aural tests based on activities we complete each week in music lessons.

Please be aware there are limited places in the choir and if your child decides to audition and are successful they must commit to weekly practices during school time and some practice at home. They will also sign a contract for the entire year. If your child, decides to leave the choir early the parents need to contact Claire Frazer. There is an expectation of working hard as part of a successful Choral Team. Thank you - Dee McFaul.

CHRISTMAS TREE

Riverside Plaza are holding their Christmas Tree decorating competition. St Gregory’s Kinder students have made many beautiful decorations and the tree looks amazing.

Please visit Riverside Plaza and vote for St Gregory’s Tree. Voting slips are also available at the school offices.

LIBRARY NEWS

The response to our Lowe Street Author Buzz Reading Challenge has been very exciting. It is wonderful to see students reading in the playground, while waiting for and on the bus as well as in the library and classrooms.

Our lucky draw winners for this year are:
Briony Gagliardi (1 Gold), Brydie Beasley (1 Red), Liam Carroll (1 Blue), Jared Oldfield (1 Red), Harvey Canestrari (K White), Sophie McIntyre (K Red), Jake Davis (K Red) and Eliza Booth-Hunt (K Blue).

Congratulations to these winners and to all those who took on the challenge. Well Done. Happy Holiday reading! - Helen Carroll.
OUR SCHOOL RULES

Stay Safe,
Be Fair,
Show Respect.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

For parents of BAPTISED children who will be in Year 3 in 2017.

Your child should have brought home registration paperwork for the Sacrament of Reconciliation which will be celebrated in April 2017. Please return the registration form before the 17 February 2017 to the parish office email at queanbeyan.sacramental@cg.org.au or via the school. Please keep the Schedule of Events handy for important dates in preparation for this sacrament. If you do not have a registration form, please download from our parish website at: http://www.stgregorysparishqueanbeyan.com/

Please call the Parish Office on 6299 4611 if you have any questions regarding this sacrament. Thank you.

CLOTHING POOL

The second hand clothing pool will open on Monday 30 January from 11am to 12pm.

TERM DATES 2017

TERM 1
Tuesday, 31 January Students return for Term 1
Wednesday, 1 February No school for Kinder students
Wednesday, 8 February No school for Kinder students
Wednesday, 15 February No school for Kinder students
Friday, 7 April End of Term 1

TERM 2
Wednesday, 26 April Students return for Term 2
Friday, 30 June End of Term 2

TERM 3
Tuesday, 18 July Students return for Term 3
Friday, 22 September End of Term 3

TERM 4
Tuesday, 10 October Students return for Term 4
Friday, 15 December Last Day for Students

CANTENE NEWS

Volunteers at Lowe Street Canteen this week are:
Thursday 15 December Daphne Gagliardi
Friday 16 December Betty Ivanos

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve - Saturday 24th December

6:00pm St Gregory’s Hall, Molonglo Street
Carols commence 5:15pm

12 Midnight (Midnight Mass) St Raphael’s Church
Carols commence at 11:15pm

Christmas Day - Sunday 25th December

8am St Raphael's Church, Lowe Street
10am St Raphael's Church, Lowe Street
Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council presents the Summer Activation Week. Five nights filled with great family fun!

Games & Activities
4:30PM - 6:30PM

Free BBQ
6:30PM - 7:30PM

Inflatable outdoor movie screening
8:00PM - 10:00PM

Wednesday 25 January 2017
Captains Flat Pool (Movie: Marley & Me)

Thursday 26 January 2017
Bungendore Pool (Movie: Despicable Me 2)

Friday 27 January 2017
Braidwood Pool (Movie: Frozen)

Saturday 28 January 2017
Queanbeyan Pool (Movie: Finding Nemo)

Sunday 29 January 2017
Queanbeyan Indoor Sports Centre
(Australian Open Men’s Tennis Final)