Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a very busy term! Some of the extra activities have included 100 Days of Kindergarten, Author Visit to Year 5, NAIDOC Mass, Parent/Teacher Interviews, Grandfriends’ Day, Hansel and Gretel Opera, ACG Catholic Primary Schools Choir Festival, Northern Region and Archdiocesan Public Speaking, National Science Week, Book Week, National Literacy and Numeracy Week, Fathers’ Day Breakfast, St Gregory’s Feast Day, Sacrament of Confirmation, Wakakirri, Goulburn Eisteddfod, Class Masses, Swimming Lessons, 4 Whole School Assemblies, Year 4 camp and this week – Year 6 camp.

In the sporting arena students have participated in the NSW PSSA Cross Country, Brumbies Clinics, Archdiocesan and Mackillop Athletics and Catholic Primary Schools Netball Carnival.

There has been some terrific learning happening in classrooms. Every class has a Literacy Block every day if possible for 100 minutes. This includes 20 minutes of free reading and 20 minutes of free writing. During this time teachers ‘conference’ with individual students about the student’s reading or writing. Why do teachers conference? The simple reason is that every individual student is at a different place in the development of their reading and writing. One tool that the teachers use in these conferences is the Literacy Continuum produced by the NSW Department of Education.

This Continuum identifies the literacy skills and understandings across eight aspects regarded as critical to literacy success. These skills and understandings are listed in clusters and during conferencing teachers can identify what skills and understandings the student is demonstrating. The teacher can then work with individual students in setting learning goals so that they can move forward. Naturally there are often groups of students that are at the same cluster and this allows the teachers to target small groups of students to work on particular skills or understandings.

Conferencing also encourages students to take responsibility for their own learning and helps them to recognise growth as well as goals to work towards. I hear Kindergarten students articulating their achievements and identifying what they need to do to move forward.

Every student at St Gregory’s should be reading every day in class for 20 minutes which is great. BUT if this is the only reading they are doing it is not enough! Students should be reading at home for at least 20 minutes every day as well.

On our Face Book page there is a short video to give some tips to parents about how to create good readers. These holidays may provide the perfect opportunity to begin or continue creating a positive reading environment at home. If our students stop reading for the next two weeks there will be some loss of the progress made to date. Please read to, in front of and with your children.

Our current theme is Looking on the Bright Side. This can be very challenging when we are tired, have too many things on our plate and when things go wrong. Looking on the Bright Side is all about our capacity to deal with life and not allowing ourselves to be pulled down so that we cannot recognise anything positive. It is a life skill that we need to encourage in our children.

I hope that the upcoming break is a time of rest and renewal for all.

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

PRAYERS: Sympathy and prayers are extended to the Kopec family (Anthony - 6 White) on the death of his Grandfather. I would appreciate prayers for my dad following the death of his brother last week. We pray for a safe and enjoyable week for our Year 6 students and their teachers. Pope Francis has requested the universal Church to join in a Day of Prayer for Peace today, Tuesday 20th September 2016, on that day he will preside over an Interreligious Meeting in Assisi.

Even more, by your Spirit you move human hearts. That enemies may speak to each other again Adversaries join hands And peoples seek to meet together.

By the working of your power It comes about, O Lord, That hatred is overcome by love, Revenge gives way to forgiveness, And discord is changed to mutual respect.

CONGRATULATIONS: Garreth Wigg who recently passed the Google Certified Educator Level 1 Exam. GCE Level 1 exam is part of Professional Development Program offered by Google to help educators get certified in demonstrating fundamental skills needed to implement Google in their classroom. Google's educator training and exams ensure that teachers have the skills they need to use technology effectively in the classroom. Garreth has certainly been the driving source – with enthusiastic participation by the other Year 6 teachers – in setting up the effective use of the chrome books in Year 6. Every student has a chrome book and it is our plan to introduce chrome books to all Year 5 students in 2017. We are also purchasing additional iPads for use in Kindergarten, Years 1 and 2.

BEST WISHES: As the many may know and certainly the families of 1 Red are aware, Michael Kinnane is finishing up this term in order to take extended leave due to health issues. Michael will be sorely missed not only by his students and their families but also by his colleagues and friends. Michael is best described as a quiet achiever. He is not one to speak of his successes or to share the extras that he does around the school. There are a few that know the true extent of what he does to demonstrate pastoral care and compassion to the members of this community. I have no doubt that we will continue to see Michael at St Greg’s – he has already expressed a desire to come to volunteer his time. On your behalf I wish Michael a time of rejuvenation as he takes care of himself instead of always thinking of others.

GOULBURN EISTEDDFOD: Another amazing Choir triumph at the Goulburn Eisteddfod last Thursday. 1st – Primary School Choir Sacred Singing. 1st – Primary School Choir 12 Years & Under. 1st – Champion School Choir. This success has come about because of the hard work and dedication of the choir members led with great passion by Mrs Dee McFaul with the great assistance of Mr Jim Bowring our volunteer accompanist. The choir members have not only learnt to sing beautifully in a group but they have learnt to work hard as a team, to stay committed to a goal, self-discipline and that hard work leads to achievement. I am very proud of the success of achieved and very grateful to Dee for sharing her expertise. Well done all.

WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY: Congratulations students of K Red and K White and their teachers on a fantastic assembly last Friday. Your message of Looking on the Bright Side was very clear. I was so impressed with the great reading skills on display not to mention the beautiful singing. You should all be very proud. I know that mums, dads, grandparents and other visitors were very impressed.

WAKAKIRRRI: This Thursday the Year 5 team will perform their Wakakirri piece at the local finals to be held at the Canberra Theatre. It is very exciting that after all the preparation and rehearsing that they get to perform on the big stage for a second time. Like choir participation the students learn so much more that dancing to tell a story. They learn about cooperation, working as a team, dedication, keeping to a plan and working hard to achieve a goal. My thanks to the Year 5 teaching team – Brad Brown, Stephanie Ellis and Veronica Hall. Canberra Theatre entry tickets were sent home with students today.

NSW CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS BASKETBALL CHALLENGE RAFFLE: As you are aware, St Gregory’s is hosting the 2016 NSW Catholic Primary Schools Basketball Challenge on 22nd and 23rd October. As part of this event we are holding a raffle. We are asking that each family sell a booklet of tickets (10 tickets per book). The raffle tickets and an accompanying letter (providing details of the raffle) will be sent home to each family this week. Please do not feel pressured to sell all the tickets but we would appreciate all raffle booklets sold or unsold to be returned to the school. Thank you.

YEAR 6 CAMP: It will be bit quieter this week at MacQuoid Street with our 80 Year 6 students away on Camp at the Sydney Academy of Sport and Recreation at Narrabeen on the Northern Beaches. This is a much anticipated activity for the Year 6 students. I am very grateful to the staff who will be attending camp – Fron Hewson, Matthew Maloney, Kate McManus-Green, Marian Wells and Garreth Wigg. My thanks to the teachers at school – with so many away there will be extra duties.

TERM 4: This Friday 23rd September is the last day of Term 3. Term 4 begins for students on Tuesday 11th October. On the Monday the staff will be working on the school Strategic Plan 2017-2019.

UNIFORM: Students will be wearing summer uniforms from the start of Term 4. During the break it will be appreciated if families could ensure that students have all uniform items required – including a school hat (available for purchase at the office for $10). The Second Hand Clothing Pool has an excellent stock of items that can be purchased for $5 an item. I will also be offering the correct uniform from the clothing pool to students who continually wear items that are not uniform.

Focus Value for September - ‘Share God’s Mercy by Looking on the Bright Side’
Last Tuesday two teams of girls represented St Gregory's at the Catholic Primary Schools Netball Championships in Penrith.

The teams played games throughout the day against schools from Sydney and surrounding regions and acquitted themselves very well. The Year 3/4 girls finished their pool in equal 4th place and the 5/6 girls finishing 3rd overall in their pool.

A big thank you needs to go out to our parents and supporters who got the girls to the bus (at 4.15AM!!!) and assisted throughout the day. Without your support events such as this would not be able to go ahead, and the girls and I really appreciate your efforts - Matthew Maloney.

**BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

On the weekend of the 22nd and 23rd October, 2016 St Gregory’s School will be organising and hosting the NSW Catholic Primary Schools Basketball Challenge.

Over 900 children and their families from over 30 schools throughout NSW will descend on Queanbeyan/Canberra to participate. Teams will be travelling from areas such as; Albury, Wagga, Western NSW, Wollongong, South Coast and Sydney.

This competition will take place at St Gregory’s Queanbeyan, Queanbeyan Basketball Stadium Karabar, St Edmund’s College Griffith and the AIS Belconnen.

A successful Basketball Challenge has the potential to raise significant funds for our school. These funds will be spent on resources and facilities for our students who will benefit for many years to come. For this carnival to be a success, St Gregory’s will need as much assistance as possible from every family at the School.

A dedicated group of teachers have been planning the logistics of the event since last year but there is still much to do.

Volunteers are the most important part of a successful carnival. There is no particular expertise required and you don’t have to be a basketball fan.

Volunteers are required on Thursday 20th and/or Friday 21st October to lend a hand to help with setting up venues, delivering items, sorting merchandise orders and preparation.

On the Saturday 22nd and/or Sunday 23rd more volunteers are need to cook at the BBQ’s.

If you are available, even for a short amount of time, please contact Ryan Matchett on 62972221 or ryan.matchett@cg.catholic.edu.au

To keep up to date with information regarding the tournament please like the challenge Facebook page: 2016 CPS Basketball Challenge.

**SOME MORE NUMBER FUN AT HOME**

Kinder – Year 2  TURNING MATHS INTO A STORY:
By presenting mathematics as a story, children can make links to their everyday life. Begin by reading books to your child that include numbers and counting.

Turn everyday events or objects into a maths story:
- Count the fruit in the fruit bowl.
- Cut fruit into six pieces.
- Count the pieces of toast you cooked at breakfast.
- Add the total of cutlery at the table.
- Count the number of people travelling in the car or the bus.

Encourage your child to draw and talk about the number of things in the pictures they have drawn. Write down your child’s ideas as a story. Here are some examples:

- There are five pieces of fruit in our bowl. Three are apples and two are bananas.
- My lunchbox has four things inside. One sandwich, one orange and two slices of cheese.

Year 3 – Year 6  TRAVEL TIMETABLES:
Can you identify your starting point on the timetable?
What is the earliest and latest time to travel on this route?
What is the difference?
How long does it take to travel the entire route?
How many stops are there on this route?
What is the difference in the time travelled when not making all stops?
What is the cost?
Is it good value compared to other travel options?

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

**CANTEEN NEWS**

Helpers at Lowe Street this week are:
- Thursday 22 September  Denise Oldfield
- Friday 23 September  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.
Take time out in these school holidays to start thinking about entries for the Queanbeyan Show to be held on 12-13 November this year.

For the Juniors, there are some wonderful opportunities to display your neatest handwriting in Section Z of the Pavilion Schedule: Printing of lines from a Nursery Rhyme of your choice, and also for the older children, Handwriting from “The 52-Storey Tree House” by Andy Griffiths.

Go online to get more information at: www.queanbeyanshow.com.au

COME JOIN US AT OUR HOLY SPIRIT RETREAT DAY 10:30AM-4:00PM SATURDAY 8 OCTOBER
THE RHEINBERGER CENTRE, YARRALUMLA

“Only if we could have two lives: the first one in which to make our mistakes...And the second one in which to profit from those mistakes”
D H LAWRENCE

There are no dress rehearsals to life so come and join us for a day to find out who the Holy Spirit is and how he works in our lives so we can make the most of our lives.

It will be a 4 DVD presentation, each lasting about twenty five minutes with Spirit filled lively group discussions and some time for personal reflection. Bring your own lunch. Morning tea will be supplied. RSVP Tues 4 Oct to Parish 6299 4611 or email to queanbeyan@cg.org.au