Dear Parents and Carers,

This Sunday we celebrate the Second Week of Advent. During the season of Advent, we choose to add many activities to our family’s schedule to prepare for our celebration of Christmas. John the Baptist reminds us that our repentance is another way in which we can prepare for the Lord’s coming and our celebration of Christmas.

It has been a delight to read the Semester Two reports and note the growth in students’ learning. The students themselves talk to me about their progress particularly in their reading and writing. While the summer holidays give students and teachers a much needed break from school, summer is also a time when many children forget to read. Kids who do not have access to books or other learning opportunities will lose 1-3 months of learning during the summer! In addition, teachers may spend the first 6 weeks of school re-teaching forgotten information.

How to fix the Summertime Learning Gap?

1. **Surround kids with a variety of books.** Kids are more likely to read when they get to choose the book for themselves. Give them access to a number of books at their reading level and have them choose.

2. **Read with your child – Aid with comprehension and learning.** Comprehension is key to becoming a good reader. Sit down with your child while they read. Make it an experience you both share.

3. **Read consistently** – even if it is for just a few minutes every day. Regular reading is the key in order to turn reading into a habit. No matter where you are – travelling, in an airplane or at Grandma’s… make sure to carve a few minutes for regular reading time. Before bedtime or first thing in the morning are the easiest to incorporate in your day.

4. **Track your child’s reading,** **motivate your child.** Keeping a log, giving your child points, having them work towards a goal, are all great ways to motivate a child to read more regularly.

5. **Fill your child’s days with enriching activities related to their reading.** Extend reading with fun book related activities. They make reading more fun, drive learning are great ways to engage a budding but reluctant reader.


Open the world of books to children in your life. Help them to cultivate a lifelong love for reading. It is the best gift you can ever give them.

**May you always be aware of the mercy of God’s love,**

Claire Frazer
Principal

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**IMPORTANT EVENTS**

- **Monday 28 November - Friday 9 December**
  - Year 2 swimming lessons
  - Queanbeyan Aquatic Centre

- **Tuesday 29 November**
  - Semester 2 reports sent home with students
  - Booking System Open for Optional Parent/Teacher Interviews

- **Wednesday 30 November - Friday 2 December**
  - Year 5 Camp - Jindabyne
  - Booking System Open for Optional Parent/Teacher Interviews

- **Wednesday 30 November**
  - Year 6 Thanksgiving Mass
  - 10am St Gregory’s Church
  - Booking System Open for Optional Parent/Teacher Interviews

- **Thursday 1 December**
  - Year One orientation to MacQuoid Street
  - 9am to 11am
  - Booking System Open for Optional Parent/Teacher Interviews

- **Friday 2 December**
  - Advent Liturgy - 9am
  - Year 3 excursion to Questacon
  - Booking System Closes for Optional Parent/Teacher Interviews at 11pm

- **Monday 5 - Thursday 4 December**
  - Optional Parent/Teacher Interviews

- **Monday 5 December**
  - Second Hand Clothing Pool Open
  - 9am to 10am Lowe St MPR
  - Junior Christmas Carols
  - 10am to 11am St Gregory’s Hall

- **Thursday 8 December**
  - Year One orientation to MacQuoid Street
  - 1pm to 3pm

- **Friday 9 December**
  - Advent Liturgy - 9am
  - End of School Year Mass
  - 9:40am St Raphael’s Church

- **Monday 12 December**
  - Second Hand Clothing Pool Open
  - 9am to 10am Lowe St MPR
From the Principal......

PRAYERS: Please keep in your thoughts and prayers Silvano Rech. Silvano is the dad of Candice in 6 Blue and is soon to have major surgery.

CONGRATULATIONS: Kelly Delaney, Kate McManus-Green and Erin Taylor for showcasing our Literacy Journey at the COSA exhibition last Friday. I had an email from Colleen Caddey-Murphy Senior Officer Teaching and Learning at Catholic Education, this is an excerpt - 

"Your COSA presentation and your booth display on Friday was a fantastic journal of your journey and a celebration of the work and achievements of all involved. The systems that you have put in place to support student growth are outstanding and have shown results and growth at your school that is very worthy of celebration. We are all very proud of the growth of our students. My thanks to Kelly Delaney who has been instrumental in driving this project and to all the amazing teachers who have embraced change. Congratulations to all."

MERICI STUDENTS: Last week we received a card from the Year 12 graduating students of Merici College who were students here at St Gregory’s. The card was signed by 12 young ladies who were in Year 6 in 2010. They wrote – 

"We would like to thank you for our unforgettable experience during the time we spent with such memorable teachers and peers. As we graduate Year 12, we would like to acknowledge the role you have played in shaping us as individuals. We are also very, very grateful to the Year 10 students from Merici who were at Lowe Street last week. They were certainly extremely helpful in assisting with the swimming program, not to mention the myriad of other tasks undertaken. Thank you!"

SWIMMING PROGRAM: The Kindergarten and Year 1 classes have now finished their swimming program. I had the pleasure of accompanying 1White last Friday. There were some very tired people at the end of the program - students and teachers. Well done to all. It is the turn of Year 2 now and their lessons started yesterday.

CHRISTMAS CANES: It is that time of the year when I ask that parents do not send candy canes in with their children to share with others. There are a number of reasons that we make this request – they are sticky, sugary, they get licked into a fine point that can be dangerous, the kids run around with them in their mouths and the plastic they are covered in gets left around the playground. Thanks.

SUNSMART: This week I included the following in our staff memo. As the weather warms up and the UV rating increases I remind all staff of our responsibilities to teach, model and reinforce positive sun protection behaviour. This means wide-brimmed hats and clothing that reduces exposure to dangerous UV rays. Students in school when daily ultraviolet (UV) radiation levels are at their peak, meaning schools are uniquely placed to educate about sun protection behaviour, minimise UVR exposure and ultimately reduce a student’s lifetime risk of skin cancer. I am very aware that the damage done today will not be obvious for many years. All students must have school hats.

SCHOOL REPORTS: Semester Two reports have been sent home today. If you have not received your child’s report please contact Jane King or Karen Nothard. From Monday 5 December until Thursday 8 December teachers will be available for interviews. There will be no interviews held for 5 White. Bookings can be made online until 11pm on Friday 2 December. Click the PTO link on the school website home page or under the Notes tab. Your PIN is the same as used earlier this year. Please contact Jane King (6297 2221) if you are unsure of your PIN or have misplaced it.

YEAR 5 CAMP: Tomorrow is the big day, Year 5 students and teachers - Veronica Hall, Brad Brown, Matthew Maloney, Kate McManus-Green (Wed/Thurs) and Erin Taylor (Thurs/Fri) - head to Jindabyne for their camp experience. Kristi Lloyd’s children are not yet old enough for their mum to be away! I know the Year 5 students, and the teachers, will have an amazing time. My thanks to the teachers and their families for their generosity in being on camp.

2017 CLASSES: This year we have used computer software to assist us in the task of creating the class groupings for 2017. Class Creator has certainly assisted us in this very important process.
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.

CRAZY SOCK DAY

Thank you for your support of our crazy sock day and Mini Vinnies mini fete. $654.45 was raised to send to Catholic Missions - Lauren Macdonald, REC.

SPORT & CULTURAL PHOTOS

The St Gregory’s Primary School Special Groups photos are now available to order. If you wish to order please collect an order form from MacQuoid Street office. Photos are $15 each and are to be ordered online direct with MSP by Thursday, 1st December, 2016.

LIBRARY NEWS

The library is now closed for borrowing as we begin our end of year stocktake. Classrooms will be returning all books back to the library. So, if your child’s books have been mixed up into the classroom books they will be returned from their borrowing list. Children’s names will be placed into a lucky draw to win a prize when they have returned all their borrowed books. There will also be another reward for the class at each campus who is the first to return all their books.
During the stocktake all books present in the libraries will be scanned and accounted for. If your child has an outstanding book on loan you will be notified at the end of the stocktake and invited to contribute to the cost of their replacement - Helen Carroll, Melissa Greentree & Ros Wythes.

HOME READERS

Please return all books to the learning support rooms at either campus. All families are encouraged to maintain a reading regime during the holidays – it is amazing how much progress can be lost if reading is abandoned during the long Christmas break. Don’t forget to read in front of your children – this is a very powerful message. Thank you.

JUNIOR CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Kinder, Year 1 and Year 2 students will be singing their favourite carols on Monday, 5 December. This will be held in St Gregory’s Hall from 10am to 11am. Parents and carers are warmly invited to attend. The junior students may wear Christmas coloured/themed clothes on this day.
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

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.

NOTICEBOARD

POSITION VACANT - Casual Warehouse Store person
(2 positions)

Australian Pharmaceutical Industries (API) is one of the leading service providers to the pharmacy industry in Australia. The services provided include wholesale distribution and retail services through our Priceline brand. API’s vision is to enrich life as the most inspirational choice for health, beauty and wellbeing.

We are looking for 2 Casual Store persons for our Queanbeyan Distribution Centre, which operates Monday - Friday between the hours of 8am and 4:30pm.

Casual hours would vary between 9.00am -3.30pm

Your responsibilities will include:
• Picking & packing customer orders
• Safely performing manual handling duties
• Working as part of a team to improve processes
• Ensuring orders a picked accurately

To be successful, you need to display:
• Excellent communication skills
• Good attention to detail
• Good work ethics
• Self-motivation
• LF / LO license are not required

If you would like to be part of our team and meet the selection criteria above, please submit your application to Glenn.Littlejohn@api.net.au

No agencies please.

The Queanbeyan Vinnies group prepares several food hampers for local residents each week. Help us to support others, especially at Christmas, by donating Christmas hamper items. When you are grocery shopping in the next couple of weeks please add an extra item to your trolley.

The following is a suggestion; however, you may wish to also include pasta and sauces, drinks, tinned fish or special Christmas items such as tinned hams, mince pies, cakes, puddings, custard, jams etc:

Kinder: Candy canes or bon bons
Year 1: Shortbread biscuits or packet jelly
Year 2: Tinned corn, beetroot or pineapple
Year 3: Savoury biscuits/crackers
Year 4: Chips, Cheezels, Pringles, corn chips
Year 5: Tinned fruit
Year 6: Sweet biscuits or long life custard

Baskets have been distributed to classrooms and will be in classes for two weeks. They will be presented to St Vincent De Paul on Friday 9 December at the end of school year Mass.


Thank you for your support - Lauren Macdonald, REC