Dear Parents and Carers,

Next Sunday will be the Third Sunday of Advent – it is also known as Rejoice Sunday or even Pink Sunday. This week the pink candle of the Advent wreath is lit. At my parish in Sydney parishioners were encouraged to wear pink to Mass.

“Rejoice: The Lord is nigh.” As Christmas draws near, the Church emphasizes the joy which should be in our hearts over all that the birth of our Saviour means for us. The great joy of Christians is to see the day drawing near when the Lord will come again in His glory to lead us into His kingdom. The often repeated Veni (“Come”) of Advent is an echo not only of the prophets but also of the conclusion of the Apocalypse of St. John: “Come, Lord Jesus,” the last words of the New Testament.

Last week when I was at Galong there was an interesting discussion amongst my peer principals about the notion of happiness. We agreed that we had often heard parents say that they want their children to be happy. Then we wondered if that was an unrealistic goal – surely we can’t be happy all the time. What happens when disappointments come along? If children had been protected so that all that they experience is happiness when do they build the skills and capacity to deal with disappointment, loss, rejection and missing out. I have been in schools where students are awarded for participating and I am not a supporter of this idea. There will be times when we lose the race, not have a Principals’ Award, not get a lead role in assembly or Wakakirri, feel left out by friends, not invited to a birthday party, not picked for choir. How sad is it if our children feel that they cannot have a go for fear of being unhappy?

Children need to know that disappointments are inevitable, that usually we can’t change the circumstances of life. We can however choose how we are going to respond to the challenges that come our way. This is a great skill to teach our children.

Be grateful for all the obstacles in your life. They have strengthened you as you continue with your journey.

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

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

PRAYERS: We continue to pray for Silvano Rech as he prepares for major surgery. We remember his family as well at this time. We pray for all those in our community who are expecting babies.

CONGRATULATIONS: To our Year 6 students on their very special Mass that occurred last Wednesday. This Mass provides our students and their families the opportunity to reflect on the many blessings they have experienced whilst a part of this school community. It was also a time when we can pray for the future health, safety and happiness of our students. I was very sad that I was unable to attend.

YEAR 5 CAMP: Congratulations to the Year 5 students who participated in their annual camp at Jindabyne last week. The photos on the Facebook page were amazing especially the ones of your climb to the top of Australia and playing in the snow. The teachers reported that the students' behaviour was exemplary – well done to you all. Cameron did have an ambulance trip to Cooma Hospital following a fall and broken wrist. Erin Taylor reported that he was very brave and worried that Erin was missing out on sleep. Despite Cameron's desire to stay on camp he and Erin Taylor did return home on Friday morning. My thanks as always to the teachers who accompany the students. It is a huge job that is taken very seriously to be responsible for students 24 hours over three days! Thanks to the teachers and their families who make it possible for them to attend – Brad Brown, Veronica Hall, Matthew Maloney, Kate McManus-Green and Erin Taylor.

YEAR 3 EXCURSION TO QUESTACON: As I waited for the Year 5 campers to return I was able to also greet Year 3 returning from their excursion. How wonderful to see smiling faces and excited children telling me that they had a great time. The teachers were just as positive. One teacher told me of being approached by another visitor to Questacon and asked what school they were from. How wonderful to have the response that they are very well behaved and extremely polite. Well done to Year 3 students and their teachers of course – Keryn Thiele, Des Gomez, Kristy Poole and Ryan Matchett.

OPTIONAL PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS: All teachers are available this week for a 15 minute optional parent teacher interview. If you would like to make an appointment and haven’t already done so you will now need to email teachers directly as the online booking system is closed. Staff emails are firstname.surname@cg.catholic.edu.au If you have any difficulties please contact Jane King.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS: Another wonderful celebration yesterday with the students of Kinder - Year 2 helping us to prepare for Christmas.

2017: This week the teachers will review the class groupings created by the amazing Class Creator. Teachers will also have the opportunity to view their class lists for 2017. Next week the teaching teams will be announced in the newsletter. Step Up afternoon will be held on Thursday afternoon 15th December. Students will bring home a letter of introduction from their 2017 teacher. This letter will be posted to any students who are not at school on this day. Kinder 2017 students will have their letter posted tomorrow.

SCHOOL HATS: Due to price increase from the suppliers the School Hats will rise in price to $15. This will be as of next year.

LOST PROPERTY: It might be timely to check the piles of lost property. Any uniform items left at the end of the school year will be sent to the clothing pool. Lunch boxes and drink bottles will be thrown away.
**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. 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.

**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

**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 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.
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.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

St Gregory’s Parish
Queanbeyan
Michelago
Bungendore
Braidwood

Christmas Eve - Saturday 24th December
6:00pm St Gregory’s School Hall, Molonglo St
(Carols commence 5:15pm)

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

Christmas Day - Sunday 25th December
8am St Raphael’s Church, Lowe Street
10am St Raphael’s Church, Lowe Street

NORTHERN MISSION

St Gregory’s Parish
Queanbeyan
Michelago
Bungendore
Braidwood

PARISH OFFICE DETAILS:
Open: 9am - 3:30pm Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
(Closed Monday & Wednesday)
Address: 47 Lowe St, Queanbeyan
Postal: PO Box 175 Queanbeyan 2620
Phone: 6299 4611
Email: queanbeyan@cg.org.au
Email: troy.bobbin@cg.org.au
Email: queanbeyan.sacramental@cg.org.au
Email: queanbeyan/finance@cg.org.au
Web: www.stgregorysparishqueanbeyan.com
Facebook: St Gregory’s Parish Queanbeyan

Weekday & Weekend Masses

Saturday 5:30pm St Raphael’s, Queanbeyan
Sunday 9:00am & 5:30pm St Raphael’s, Queanbeyan
Saturday 6pm St Bede’s, Braidwood
1st Sundays 11am Sts Peter & Paul, Hoskinstown
3rd Sundays 9am St Joseph’s, Gundaroo
5th Sundays 12noon St Brigid’s, Krawarree
Sunday 8:30am St Mary’s, Bungendore
2nd Saturday 5pm St Patrick’s, Michelago

Monday NO MASS

2nd rite of reconciliation
Thursday 22nd November at 7:30pm St Raphael’s

CHRISTMAS APPEAL

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

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. https://www.vinnies.org.au/2016/christmasappeal

Thank you for your support - Lauren Macdonald, REC

ST GREGORY’S QUEANBAYAN NEWSLETTER

CANTEEN NEWS
Volunteers at Lowe Street Canteen this week are:
Thursday 8 December Michelle Welch
Friday 9 December June Lawrence