Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the 2017 school year! Our overarching theme for this year is based on the 2017 Catholic Schools' Week theme – St Gregory's: Great Learning, Great Community.

Students had a very smooth week one. This was, for the most part, due to the wonderful preparations undertaken by the staff in the lead up to our students returning. The 113 Kindergarten students have settled into school routines very quickly. Although there are still a few quivering lips at morning assembly as soon as they make it to the classrooms and begin the activities of the day their anxiousness about saying goodbye has disappeared.

I have had the great pleasure of interviewing ten families in the last two weeks seeking enrolment for their children at St Gregory's. We welcomed 12 new students to grades across the school some local families but also new arrivals from the Philippines, Portugal and South Africa. I welcome all families new to our school and hope that their association with this community is a very positive experience.

Last year a new Literacy Block format was introduced to our school. During Literacy Blocks (that should be at least 90 minutes) students will complete at least 20 minutes of silent reading and at least 20 minutes of silent writing. This occurs in every classroom from K – 6. The students choose what text they will read and the topic for their writing. It was a real joy to be in the Year 1 classrooms last week seeing the students eagerly engaged in writing and reading. It is during these times of silence that teachers have the opportunity to ‘conference’ (speak with students one on one) about their writing or reading. As you can imagine this means that students are talking to teachers about where they are up to, and where they need to go to from here.

Some of my holiday reading included a book called ‘Mindset’. Mindset is a simple idea discovered by world-renowned Stanford University psychologist Carol Dweck in decades of research on achievement and success—a simple idea that makes all the difference. Teaching a growth mindset creates motivation and productivity in the worlds of business, education, and sports. Basically we either have a growth mindset or a fixed mindset. I look forward to sharing more about the Growth Mindset but in the meantime the image below provides a good summary.

May we work together in strong partnership so that we continue to see great learning in a great community.

Yours sincerely

Claire Frazer
Principal
Focus Value for February - ‘Be Welcoming’

From the Principal......

PRAYERS: Please keep in your prayers members of our community who are ill especially Lola Lloyd and Jody Mudge. Sympathy is extended to the Bull family (Elijah - 6 White) on the death of his Grandfather in Fiji and to the Browne family (Jesse - 4 Gold) on the death of his Grandmother.

GOFUNDME: As many of you know one of our dads is very ill. Friends of the family have launched a gofundme page in order to support the family. I know the family would be most appreciative of any support.  [https://www.gofundme.com/372pj54](https://www.gofundme.com/372pj54)

CONGRATULATIONS: To the Year 6 classes and their teachers, the Leaders Induction Assembly last Friday was amazing. When you consider that the students had been at school less than three and half days their participation and presentation was brilliant. I congratulate the four school captains – Eden D’Souza, James Hill, James Mackenzie and Rose Taylor who were presented with their badges and I congratulate all 78 individual Year 6 students. There was not one student who did not participate in all aspects of the assembly – singing, dancing (salt shaker!!) and reading with 100% commitment. With these students as our leaders we are ensured a great year ahead.

GWEN BELL MEMORIAL GARDEN/STAFF COMMISSIONING MASS: On Saturday afternoon the garden established in memory of our special Mrs Bell was officially opened and blessed. As the plants grow this will become a lovely place of quiet and reflection. Proceeds from our Mother’s Day Stall were used to create this area. I thank the School Community Council for initiating this special place and the parents and staff that worked together to create the garden. Thanks to Fr. Troy who blessed the garden and special thanks to Council members Peter Welch and Michael Bower and teacher Sybil Busby who were instrumental in seeing the project completed. Many of our staff attended Mass at St Raphael’s Church on Saturday evening to be commissioned by our parish priest Fr. Troy for our mission in Catholic Education this year. This was a very special time of prayer followed very nicely by a social gathering in a local establishment!

ROYAL COMMISSION INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE: In the coming weeks in the final hearing involving the Catholic Church will be taking place. For your information I have attached a letter from Archbishop Denis J Hart – President, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. I am extremely mindful that the coverage may cause distress for those affected by abuse. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you are in need of support.

REMINDERS: School supervision begins at 8:30am. We are aware that a bus arrives before this time but students know what they need to do in order to stay safe. Students are supervised at the following points for afternoon pick-up. Please do not arrange to meet your child at another point.

Lowe – all students wait in the shade of the big tree. It is very helpful if you have collected your child that you do not allow them to play – it becomes confusing for the teacher on duty and students don’t understand why they can’t play when others do.

MacQuoid – there are two collection points. The Bottom Gate (MacQuoid St) and The Top Gate – Mowatt Street. MacQuoid Street now has special pick up/drop off zone where the gutter is painted blue. Please do not collect children via Molonglo Street – there are two collection points. The Bottom Gate (MacQuoid St) and The Top Gate – Mowatt Street. MacQuoid

LATE ARRIVALS/EARLY DEPARTURES: Parents and Carers are reminded that if students arrive at school after the assembly it is necessary for parents/carers to sign students in at the office. Similarly, if students need to leave before the 3pm bell they need to be signed out at the office. Please note that students will not be called for over the PA system in order to limit interruptions during class learning time. I appreciate that from time to time it is unavoidable that students arrive late for school but I do request that every effort is made for students to be at school before the 9am bell.

WHOLE SCHOOL MASS: On Wednesday we will celebrate our beginning of the year Mass. This provides an opportunity to pray for all members of our community. We pray in thanksgiving for the blessing of being a part of this community and we pray for those who are real need of our support.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL: The first of our sporting events takes place this Friday. Students from Years 3-6 will participate in the annual Swimming Carnival. My thanks to Matt Maloney who has been very busy preparing for this event. Good luck to all competitors.

WET WEATHER: In the event of wet weather students arriving to school at Lowe will move immediately to the multi-purpose/music room. Students arriving at MacQuoid will move into the hall. At the end of the school day the following wet weather procedures are in place. Lowe – students assemble in the library, and at MacQuoid – bottom gate students will gather in the Learning Support Room – located on the ground floor of the main office building. Top gate students will assemble in the space outside the Year 6 classrooms – near the canteen. We are very aware that parking can be challenging on wet weather days and can assure you that your children will be safely supervised until you arrive.

GOOGLE CALENDAR: The calendar located on the school website is regularly updated. All activities are listed on this calendar from sporting events, whole school assembly dates and the classes hosting them, incursions, excursions, parent teacher interviews, Masses, parent workshops, School Council Meetings and Parish activities.

COMMUNICATION: Please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher if you have any questions or concerns. You do not need to wait for allocated parent interview times to meet with teachers. The best way to communicate with teachers is via email but please be aware that teachers may not access email accounts during the school day. If there is an urgent message please ring the school offices and Jane, Karen or Emma will ensure that the message is relayed. You can also be kept up to date by accessing the school website, Facebook page or Twitter account.

MY AVAILABILITY: I am always very happy to meet with parents or carers. The best way to arrange this is to phone Jane King (6297 2221) who will set up a meeting time.
SWIMMING CARNIVAL

St Gregory’s swimming carnival will be held this FRIDAY 10 February at Queanbeyan Aquatic Centre. All students from Years 3 to 6 will participate. We would appreciate the assistance of as many parents as possible to help us with the running of the Carnival. The Carnival will begin at 9:45am and should conclude no later than 2:30pm. Students will begin the day at school and will walk to the pool with their teacher. Your child may leave with a parent/carer in the afternoon after you have informed their teacher. We are looking forward to a great day.

- Matthew Maloney, PE Teacher/Sport Coordinator.

BOOK CLUB

Book Club brochures have been distributed to MacQuoid Street students. (Lowe St students will receive brochures later this term). Orders will close on the 15th February. No late orders will be able to be accepted. Thank you.

THE ATHLETE’S FOOT

The Athlete’s Foot is an ongoing supporter of our school through their School Rewards Program. Every time you purchase any pair of shoes from The Athlete’s Foot Canberra Centre, $5 will be donated back to the school. This applies to the whole family and across our entire footwear range, including school, athletic, work and casual shoes. There are no restrictions and it’s unlimited.

Wednesday 1st of February marks the return of RCIA 2017 for St Gregory’s, Queanbeyan.

Over the coming Wednesday evenings, I invite members of the congregation to come along to RCIA to listen to a variety of topics given by myself, the RCIA team and visiting priests. Below is the schedule for these discussions:

Feb 1 Welcome Back RCIA Candidates only
Feb 8 Sacrament of Initiation
Sacraments of Healing & vocation
Feb 15 Human & Divine, the journey to understand our Saviour P1
Feb 22 Saints and Mary
March 1 Human & Divine, the journey to understand our Saviour P2
March 8 Called to Church called to the world
March 15 The Mass – Liturgy of the Word
March 22 The Mass – Liturgy of the Eucharist
March 29 RCIA only
April 5 RCIA only
April 12 Reflection night and Practice

Time: 7pm in the Parish Meeting Room, Lowe Street
Call Parish Office for more information  6299 4611

CLOTHING POOL

The second hand Clothing Pool will be open every Monday from 9am - 10.30am and every Thursday from 2pm - 3:30pm. Alterations to uniforms are also available from Betty in the clothing pool for $5 an item. School hats are available for purchase from the offices at a cost of $15.

CANTEEN NEWS

Volunteers at Lowe Street Canteen this week are: Thursday 9 February  Help Needed Please Friday 10 February  Bethany Butterfield

WORLD’S GREATEST SHAVE

Peter Taloni (Year 6) has registered with the Leukaemia Foundation World’s Greatest Shave. The ‘GREAT SHAVE’ will take place at the 9am morning assembly at MacQuoid Street on Friday, 17th March. Please sponsor Peter by sending in donations to school or donating online at http://my.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/petertaloni

NORTHERN MISSION

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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 9am St Joseph’s, Gundaroo
2nd Saturdays 5pm St Patrick’s, Michelago
3rd Sundays 9am St Brigid’s, Krawarree
4th Sundays 12noon St Brigid’s, Krawarree
Sunday 8:30am 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)
3rd Wednesdays 11:00am Queanbeyan Nursing Home
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/5(Sun) 9am Baptism Presentations
Marriages By Appointment
Mondays 10:00am-12noon Craft Group, Parish Meeting Room
1st Wednesdays 12:30pm Prayer Group, Parish Meeting Room
Sundays SOULED OUT YOUTH GROUP Years 7-12: 6:30pm-8:00pm

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**Italian for Students at St Greg’s**

Term One 2017 (Lowe St & MacQuoid St students)
Date: 9th February – 6th April; Thursdays
Time: 3.20 – 4.30 p.m.
Venue: St. Gregory’s Parish
Cost: $158 per student (9 lessons)

NOTE: The LCF Italian Teacher will accompany your child at Lowe St Campus to St. Gregory’s Parish from 3pm. Please prepare some snacks for them.

For enquiry & enrolment please contact LCF Fun Languages
www.lcfclubs.com.au - Sarah Mak 0431 252 768
Email sarah.mak@lcfclubs.com.au

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**Queanbeyan Social Basketball**

Term 1 Enrolment/Payment Night  Thursday 9th February
Time: 5-7:30pm  Venue: Queanbeyan Basketball Stadium
Contact Rosie E: rosiebball1@tpg.com.au
Grades - Kindergarten to Year 6
Contact Carole E: cjduvall@hotmail.com
High School and Senior Men & Women

Register now at www.aussiehoops.com.au
Commencing Friday 10th February 2017
Fridays 4.30-5.30pm  Ages: 4-10 yrs
Cost: $90 includes basketball, backpack & singlet
+8 weeks clinic
Venue: Queanbeyan Basketball Stadium

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**Queanbeyan Kangaroo Minor Rugby League**

Want to play Rugby League, why not join the Junior Roos?
Our Club has spots available for boys and girls in all age groups starting from u6s up to u16s.
There is also a Joey’s skills development program for 4–5yrs
If you are interested please contact Tracy via email on roossecretary@hotmail.com or Ph: 0433 300 259

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**Free ENGLISH Classes**

Queanbeyan Presbyterian Church Hall
Cnr Morisset and Lowe Streets (opposite Queanbeyan Park)
Wednesdays 10am - 12pm
All Welcome!  Morning Tea provided
Contact Peter Gobbo 6292 6772 or 0423 548 821

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**OCFC Junior Soccer**

**2016 REGISTRATION OPEN**

Who:  U6 – U17
When:  Season Starts 30 April (training to commence March)
Where:  High Street Field (Opp McDonalds)
Cost:  U6-U11 $125p, U12-U17 $190
Info:  www.ocfc.com.au or call us
Regos:  online at www.myfootballclub.com.au
Contact:  Junior Coordinator
         Mick 0451 043 232
mcoa01@bigpond.com