Dear Parents and Carers,

Homework is a hotly debated topic. Parents either hate it or love it. I think there are many teachers out there that are divided on the subject too. Some believe it teaches good time management skills and it reinforces what’s being taught in the classroom. Others are of the opinion that since it does not allow immediate feedback on the practising of new concepts, there is little point in doing it.

Dr Michael Carr-Gregg, a leading child and adolescent psychologist, is a passionate critic of homework. He says the best thing parents can do is love their children, provide a safe environment for them and be there - all difficult to manage if there is constant arguing about getting homework done. Some schools encourage students to play board games with an adult and photograph the board as proof, or choose and cook a recipe for dinner and photograph the results — all of which helps with literacy and important life skills. Dr Michael Carr-Gregg believes these are much more pleasant family interactions than homework. “Childhood is hard enough as it is without putting the stress of homework on them.”

In the research paper titled, “Does Homework Improve Academic Achievement?” Cooper, Robinson & Patall (2006), conclude that there is a positive correlation between the amount of homework students do and their achievement levels. They say homework is valuable because it reaffirms the role of parents and caregivers as partners in education and gives them an insight into what is being taught in the classroom and the progress of their children.

One homework expectation I think everyone agrees on is that reading is the most important task parents and students can be doing. Reading for pleasure, in whatever form it may take (novels, newspapers, magazines, online articles), is an important part of our children’s cognitive development. Modelling the joy of reading is also a considerable way to foster good reading habits. If you read, then your children are likely to follow suit.

Here at St Gregory’s we are in the early stages of updating our homework policy. We will be surveying parents this term to get your ideas and feedback on what you believe is important.

May peace be in your families,

Julie Wiley
Principal (Acting)
From the Principal…….

PRAYERS: The Agius family (Patrick KR) – Baby Alexis needs our prayers.
Sympathy is extended to the Murphy family (Charlotte - 2 Red) on the death of her Grandfather.
Sympathy is also extended to the Fitzpatrick family (Lachlan - 5 Red and BJ - 3 Gold) on the recent death of their Great-Grandmother.

WELCOME: Mr Rod McMullan, filling in for groundsman Mr Vince Walsh, who will be on leave for the rest of the term.

THANK YOU: To Mr Ryan Matchett for organising our NAIDOC Week activities last week. Michael Weir visited St Greg's last Thursday to talk to each year group about dreamtime stories, culture and astrology. We also had representatives attend the NAIDOC mass at the cathedral on Friday.

Thank you to our grandfriends who joined us last Friday for Grandfriend’s Day. It was a huge success! It was so wonderful to hear the stories of ‘days gone by’ and we were so appreciative of those who travelled long distances to be here. Your grandchildren loved it!

JULY THEME: Show Tolerance - Children are aware of racial and gender differences at a very young age, and by age twelve they have formed stereotypes. In fact, recent studies show that tolerance education is most effective between the ages of four and nine years. Therefore, it is important to teach tolerance to young children and continue reinforcing the message over time.

KIDSMATTER: About Family Relationships – There are lots of ways to show you care, even in busy families.
1. Tune in: listen with interest and enthusiasm
2. Have fun together: spend time doing things you enjoy
3. Family rituals: these create a sense of connection and belonging
4. Make time to talk: this allows you to plan and set priorities and builds mutual understanding
5. Share the load: support each other by sharing chores and making sure everyone gets a say when making decisions.

SINGFEST REHEARSAL: This Friday the St Gregory’s school choir head to Goulburn for their first formal rehearsal. Special thanks to Mrs Dee McFaul and Mrs Amanda Ducker who will be attending with the students.

CONFIRMATION INFORMATION NIGHT: Tonight the Confirmation candidates, along with their parents and sponsors, will be meeting in the Church for the second information night.

WSFA: This Friday we look forward to our Whole School Focus Assembly by Kinder Blue and Kinder Gold. It will start at 12:30pm.

On a side note, can I please ask you not to park alongside the garbage bins. They are emptied every Friday afternoon. If we miss the visit we have no bins until the following Friday and it really does impact on our rubbish. Thank you.

CUPPA AT THE GATE: This week is your chance to meet members of the School Council by having a “cuppa at the gate”. It’s on Wednesday at Lowe, and on Thursday at MacQuoid St from 8:15am to 9am.
LIBRARY NEWS

PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE - only 25 days to go!!!
Congratulations to the following nine students who have finished Briony Gagliardi KRed, Milly Lawrence-Killaly KBlue, Angus Edwards 1Gold, Flynn Lovekin 1Gold, Natáhly Rogers 1Gold, Cooper Lovekin 2White, Eianna Celaya 3White, Alexander May 3White and Jay Duncan 4White. We have a total of 256 students participating, 215 are already completing online recording and 98 have completed - fantastic!! We have our class pizza challenge running and 4 White are in front with 20 students completed.
Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have trouble with your logon or any other queries - please include your child's full name and class in any email. Any questions can be directed to rosalind.wythes@cg.catholic.edu.au

BOOK CLUB
Book Club, Issue 5 brochures have been distributed to students. Ordering is done online. Please do not send any orders to school. We only take online orders. Orders close to parents on Monday, 10 August 2015. Thank you.

BOOK FAIR
Come and participate in our Book Fair on Friday, 7th August, 2015 from 8:30am -5:30pm.

OUR SCHOOL RULES
Stay Safe,
Be Fair,
Show Respect.

RE RESOURCE WEBSITE
The school has subscribed to this website as a trial for the rest of the year and would love parent feedback.
http://understandingfaith.edu.au/
Username: ceo.cg.quean
Password: zxXS5YJFeP
Thank you, Lauren Macdonald, REC

SPORT NEWS

BOOROWA TOUCH AND NETBALL - Students from Years 3 to 6 are invited to represent our school at the Boorowa boys Touch and girls Netball Carnival. This year the annual Boorowa Carnival will be held on Friday, 16 October, 2015. The Boorowa Carnival aims to balance competition with participation and encourages the involvement of as many children as possible in a day of friendship and community spirit. Notes are available from the office.
Matt Maloney, PE/Sport Teacher

YEAR 6 CAMP
A reminder that all parents/carers of our Year 6 students that are attending camp in Week 7 this term must complete an online medical information sheet ASAP. This is compulsory, even if your child has no medical conditions that need to be reported. The online form requires the following details:
Booking number – 0454140
Booking start date – 24th August 2015
Venue – Sydney Academy of Sports and Recreation
Name of organisation – St Gregory’s Primary School, Queanbeyan
The link for the medical form is:

175th ANNIVERSARY
There will be a display celebrating the history of the St Gregory’s Catholic Mission during the celebrations on Sunday, 9th August in St Gregory's Hall. If any families have any historical memorabilia that could be displayed - relating either to the parish or the school it would be appreciated. Items could include old uniforms, books, photos, teaching aids, etc. Please leave at the school with your name and details clearly marked. Thank you.
Volunteers are needed for an hour (time to be advised) on Saturday 8th August to help set up the school hall for the St Gregory’s 175th Year celebrations. If you are able to help can you please contact Ryan Matchett on 62972221 or ryan.matchett@cg.catholic.edu.au.

CANTEEN NEWS
Helpers at Lowe Street this week are:
Thursday 30 July  - Help Needed Please
Friday 31 July  - Bethany Butterfield
Volunteers are always welcome at MacQuoid Street, even if you are only available for an hour. Thank you.
Meet the School Council

Enjoy a free Cuppa @ the Gate with the School Council 8.15am to 8.55am Lowe St - Wednesday 29th July Macquoid St - Thursday 30th July

Contact the Council: stgregorys.schoolcouncil@cq.catholic.edu.au Or approach a parent representative

We all belong to a very special community through our connection with St Gregory’s Primary School.

Representing approximately 45 staff and 630 students from 450 families, St Gregory’s School Community Council consists of the Principal, nominated staff members, Parish Priest and parent representatives who work together to support the mission of Catholic education within the school.

In addition to its decision making and advisory roles, the Council also supports School projects across both Lowe St and MacQuoid St Campuses via the distribution of funds raised through School events such as Walkathon, Trivia Nights and sausage sizzles. Through the generous, on-going School community support of these events, Council has so far this year: authorised the distribution of over $53,000 as a contribution to the installation of playground surfacing at Lowe St; and for the purchase of sporting team uniforms; and commenced installation of a new sensory garden for kindergarten students.

Fostering collaboration between parents, teachers and the parish is the key foundation of our school community. St Gregory’s School Community Council is keen to connect and listen to your experiences and suggestions so that we can continue to strengthen our school community and deliver relevant improvements. - Peter Welch, St Gregory’s School Council Chair
ST GREG’S & HOME IN QBN TRIVIA NIGHT

SATURDAY 29TH AUG | 6:30PM | ST GREG’S HALL
$20pp | TABLES OF 10 | PRIZES, AUCTIONS & RAFFLES
BYO DRINKS & NIBBLES OR ORDER IN SOME DINNER

BOOK NOW
VIA MACQUOID ST OFFICE
CALL JANE ON 6297 2221

RAFFLE TICKETS ON SALE NOW
$10 PER TICKET | AVAILABLE AT THE FRONT OFFICE FROM NOW UNTIL OCTOBER 30
1ST – $1000 COLES MYER GIFT CARD
2ND – $500 COLES MYER GIFT CARD
3RD – $200 COLES MYER GIFT CARD
175TH
ANNIVERSARY OF
St Gregory’s Catholic Mission
SUNDAY, 9TH AUGUST
9:30AM MASS
ST GREGORY’S SCHOOL HALL
MOLONGLO ST, QUEANBEYAN

Free Family Entertainment
10:30am - 2:30pm
Face Painting
Rock Climbing
Petting Zoo
Jumping Castle
National Dinosaur Museum
Balloon Making
Giant Slide

Historical Display
A historical exhibition depicting many facets of the history of the Mission in Queanbeyan will be on display in the new classrooms.

Food for the Family
A light morning tea will be served in the Parish Centre after Mass and St Gregory’s School Council will be running a sausage sizzle. Also on site will be food stalls and a coffee van

For more information please contact
St Gregory’s Parish Office 6299 0242
Ryan Matchett 0430 035 368
Savvy School Wear

ST GREGORY’S PRIMARY SCHOOL EXCLUSIVE 3 DAY SALE 20 % OFF
THURSDAY 30th July
FRIDAY 31st July
SATURDAY 1st August

FLOOR STOCK ONLY
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

BUSINESS HOURS
MON – FRI 9.00 – 5.30
SAT 9.00 – 3.00

NOW UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

PHONE: 02 6162 3070
Unit 2/72 Cassisdys Arcade
Monaro Street
Queanbeyan. NSW 2620

DON’T FORGET YOU CAN CLICK AND COLLECT AT
www.savvyschoolwear.com.au
FREE Kids 1st Aid session for parents/carers of young children in Braidwood, Bungendore & surrounding NSW regions.

Tuesday 4th August 2015
St Bede’s Catholic School, Braidwood
School library
5:00-8:00pm
Light supper provided
RSVP ESSENTIAL—Alison 6124 3800

No childcare provided, and strictly breastfed babies only allowed at the course.

www.kidsfirstaid.com.au

Bogong Boori's Playgroup
Age 0-3
When: Every Thursday
Where: Munjuwa- 28 Rutledge Street
Time: 11:30am— 1:30pm
Free Lunch Provided
Transport can be provided

Siblings are more than welcome to also attend.
Come along let you babies interact and play with other kids and have FUN.
If you require transport please contact Skyan Fernando 0407 780 353