Dear Members of the St Gregory’s Family,

We hear the word materialism fairly often these days which is completely understandable because of the way in which we are continually bombarded with advertisements to buy things whether it be through the papers, television, social media or the web. It is hard to get away from all the messages asking us to buy. As a result of this continual bombardment, no one could blame someone for having a focus on worldly goods. I continually remind our young men that we all need to step back at time and take time out, whether that be by going to the chapel and sitting in silence and absorbing the stillness or sitting down near the ovals and just taking in the surrounds. We are truly blessed with our grounds and facilities and we should take time out to stop and reflect on how fortunate we are. We need to keep listening to God’s word and putting it into practice if we are going to live a fulfilling life.

Welcome back to Term 3 after what I hope has been a restful and peaceful holiday. We welcome back Mrs Ross to the College this term after a period on Maternity Leave. Hopefully everyone has had time to recharge their battery and is now ready for another productive term.

I would ask that you keep the Anderson and Maronese families in your thoughts and prayers after they both lost family members over the last couple of weeks. We also keep our Year 12 students in our thoughts and prayers as they move towards their trials next week.

Congratulations to our Show Team once again. They have had a big year all round with so many ribbons returning to the College. Recently they went to the National Sheep and Wool Show in Bendigo and brought home more ribbons. Lachlan Watkin of Year 12 came first in the Paraders and also in the Corriedale Judging which is a credit to him and the staff who have worked with him. Thanks to Mr Stefanski and Mr Nieuwenhuis for taking the time to drive the students to Bendigo, Victoria for the Show.

Congratulations to the Molloy House and their Captain Lachlan Watkin, who won the recent Athletic Carnival breaking the run of the Kilian House. There were many outstanding performances which augurs well for the upcoming MCS Carnival where the College has a proud record of achievement.

Momentum Build has been awarded the contract for the building of the new Learning Centre which is due to get under way in the next couple of weeks and is due for completion by the end of December. Hopefully it will be ready for occupation by February.

The Year 12 students are down to their last eight weeks of classes with their Year 12 Trials examinations commencing next week for two weeks and then only six weeks until Graduation Day. There will be another letter coming out soon to outline in more detail, the details for the Graduation Day.

Thank you to those mothers who supported the Year 8 Mother and Son Etiquette Dinner this week as it was a great success. Thanks to Mrs Jeffcoate, Ms Keir and the Year 8 staff for their support of the evening for without their contribution and presence it could not take place.

Thank you to those parents who were able to be present last week in order to support our NAIDOC Assembly. It was a memorable Assembly with a history lesson and a cultural experience combined.

Quae Seminaveris Metes.

Damien Millar
Headmaster
Fiji Immersion

Each year we are privileged to be able to send students to immerse themselves in places around the Pacific where the Marist Brothers are working with communities, particularly in schools. During the last holidays, ten Year 11 students and two teachers travelled to Suva in Fiji. The immersion experience is very important in the formation of our young men. The boys and staff came back with wonderful stories of the welcome they received. Following is a summary of a reflection written by Charlie Allen and Michael Calcutt. The full Immersion report is in the News section of the College website and photos are in Galleries.

On Thursday 23 June, ten Year 11 boys embarked on a life changing journey to Fiji accompanied by Ms Jane Coupland and Mr Luke McGinnity. We were lucky to have a few days to acclimatise to the Fijian way of life as we arrived just in time for the first Fijian National Sports Public Holiday and a weekend of fitting celebrations ensued.

On Monday, the true immersion experience began as we nervously entered the Marist Champagnat Institute, a secondary school for students of a Year 9 level and above with learning difficulties and or a lack of alternate schooling options. Here we met our designated ‘buddies’ for the first time.

On Tuesday afternoon, we spread in our separate directions across Suva going home by bus or by foot with our buddies. Each of us experienced a completely different reality to that of our normal lives. Some houses were made of little more than wood and some corrugated iron, about half the size of what we would be used to but with twice as many people inside. However, still the Fijians welcomed each boy with great generosity as if we were a member of their families.

On Wednesday, we visited the Marist High School of Suva and were taken through the school by members of the student leadership group. Again these boys were exceptionally welcoming and took a great deal of pride in showing us their school.

Thursday consisted of a day at the St Marcellin Primary School where we were overwhelmed by the young children and their excitement in seeing visitors such as ourselves. We were bombarded with kind greetings and hugs from the little kids. By the end of our journey the boys had developed a renewed perspective on life and a greater understanding of the wider Marist community that St Gregory’s College belongs to.

Our thanks go to Br Kees of the Champagnat Institute for his tireless organisation and hospitality during our stay and a special thanks to Ms Coupland and Mr McGinnity for giving up their time during the holidays to accompany us on the trip.

Charlie Allen and Michael Calcutt

BR@G – Boys Read at Greg’s – silent reading programme

This silent reading programme will be commencing at St Greg’s in the second half of Term 3. All boys in Years 7-10 will be engaged in silent reading during allocated lessons across the College curriculum. It is expected that, from the commencement of the programme, all students will carry appropriate reading material with them every day. We will shortly be sending more detailed information to help parents and students learn more about the importance of reading every day, as well as how to choose books that will be enjoyable and appropriate. Please note, it will not be acceptable to read from laptops; hard copy books or dedicated e-readers will be necessary. For more information, please contact Mrs Louise Millar at the College.

Catherine Keegan, Director of Teaching and Learning
Student Profiles

Congratulations to the following students for their achievements as shown:

Maximilian Iuliano
Year 8
Debating Semi Finalist

Cameron McDonald
Year 8
Debating Semi Finalist

Carl Rushworth
Year 8
Debating Semi Finalist

Benjamin Taber
Year 8
Debating Semi Finalist

Lachlan Watkin
Year 12
1st Place at National Sheep and Wool Show in Bendigo

Samuel Prince
Year 11
Success at National Sheep and Wool Show in Bendigo

Bradyn Challis
Year 11
Success at National Sheep and Wool Show in Bendigo

Lachlan McLean
Year 11
7th Place at National Sheep and Wool Show in Bendigo

Dugald Mullen
Year 7
Success at National Sheep and Wool Show in Bendigo

Year 10 News

The Year 10 group has been very busy these last two terms. The students have been organising their work experience and submitting forms for re-enrolment as senior students in 2017. The boys are starting to make solid choices about their future and educational commitments.

In recent months the students have been exposed to a variety of talks by head of subject departments in preparation for next year. The College was able to support the students further by organising a ‘Careers Forum’ in the Br Luke Hall. The ‘Careers Forum’ was represented by trade schools, private Colleges, universities and law enforcement agencies. The afternoon was extremely successful with loads of valuable information offered to those students seeking additional assistance in certain career paths. I would like to thank Mrs Dein for setting up the event.

As we head into Term 3, the Year 10 cohort is about to conclude the community service program, as you may have heard, the program will serve as a base to any leadership opportunity in Year 11. Students are also completing their work experience allocations for the end of the year.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr Serone for the end of year activities. This year the three activities that will run will be: The Tall Ship experience; a hike in Tasmania’s National Park and a challenging Canoe Paddle down the Murrumbidgee River. I was happy to see the large number of students interested in applying for these trips.

Baldino Vetrano,
Year 10 Co-ordinator
TERM 3 – WEEK 2

GIO SCHOOLBOY RUGBY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

After close wins against Holy Cross College Ryde and St Dominic’s College Penrith the final Pool game for our First Grade Rugby League team in the GIO competition will be played against Matraville Sports High School at the Campbelltown Stadium starting at 2.00pm.

MCS FOOTBALL (SOCCER) AND RUGBY LEAGUE COMPETITIONS

Four Rugby League and four Football teams progressed to their Grand Finals. In outstanding results both of our First Grade teams won Premierships.

CCC TENNIS AND BASKETBALL

By winning the MCS Tennis Championship our College represented MCS and CCC Tournament. In Bathurst our Tennis team played and proceeded into the Semi Finals before rain forced the ending of the Tournament. In the CCC Basketball Regional Tournament our First V had four wins and one loss and missed out on the Quarter Finals on a count back of for and against points.

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS

Four of our students have successfully qualified for the CCC team, Cody Salter – 14 years and Brent Rushworth (3rd place), Mitchell Carter (7th place) and Liam Neeson (10th place) – 17 years.

Joseph Lantz, Sports Coordinator

The full sport report can be found on the College website.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

Champagnat Day Activities
Have been rescheduled to
Thursday 25 August

School Photos
Friday 26 August
Main Photo Day

Friday 2 September
Co-Curricular Groups