Dear Members of the St Gregory’s Family,

When one reads Matthew’s Gospel in Chapter 14, Jesus tells the disciples to walk on while he stops to take some time by himself for prayer. There are so many examples in the Gospels where Christ stops and takes time out for prayer by himself. Admittedly, Christ had a bit going on in his life at the time, performing miracles and having crowds following him and just wanting to be near him. I can understand why he needed time for prayer.

In our own lives today, people are always busy with calendars full of appointments, people starting work early and finishing late in order to make deadlines and have work completed for their employer. Parents are always running children to appointments or activities after school or before school, depending on the activity. Parents have to work to ensure that children have food, clothing and shelter. The internet is another presence that everyone has to deal with to some extent and it seems to demand twenty four hour attention. Our young people these days get into cars or buses for travel and automatically put the ear phones in and only take them out upon arrival at their destination. There is noise and activity everywhere these days, when do people take the time to stop and reflect and just have some quiet time?

I remember a Year 12 student a few years ago when I asked him what he liked about the College and he told me that it was the peacefulness that meant so much to him. He told me that he came from Campbelltown where the traffic noise can be deafening and there are people rushing everywhere but when he comes through the gates of the College, he leaves all that behind him and he always felt at peace coming through the gates each day.

I often say to the boys that the College is set in beautiful surrounds and that they should take the time to stop and sit and appreciate and look at what surrounds them. We are blessed to have a Chapel situated in our midst where anyone can go for peace and quiet at any time during the day. We should all take time to stop, rest and reflect as it helps clear the mind and rests the body and allows us to stay in touch with our God.

Recent Events
Recently the Band performed at the Hermitage at Mittagong in front of a national audience. The occasion was the Marist Support Staff Conference, which is held every two years, and people from across Australia are invited to attend. The Band was invited to open the Conference and it was one of the best performances that I have heard from the Band, they were outstanding as they worked their way through their repertoire. Thanks to Miss Wray for the wonderful job that she does inspiring the Band to produce these performances.

The Winter Serenade was a marvellous night of entertainment. The Winter Serenade allows students in the elective classes to demonstrate their talents in front of an audience and also the students who are tutored in music get the opportunity to also perform in front of an audience. The talent on display was outstanding and this was echoed to me by a number of parents who were present. Many thanks to Miss Wray and the Music Department for giving the boys this wonderful opportunity.

Quae Seminaveris Metes.

Damien Millar
Headmaster
From the Deputy

Dear Parents,

I trust your sons have settled back into a pattern of productive study and recreation now we are finishing Week 4. There are two areas that I ask that you remain mindful of:

HAIRCUTS
Students are required to wear their hair in a neat and tidy manner. Haircuts should be of an even grade. Hair should be well brushed and combed and it is assumed that hair will not be in such a condition as to invite comment. This includes long fringes and lines cut in the hair.

MORNING AND AFTERNOON DROP OFF AND PICK UP
Students should only ever be picked or dropped off at the appropriate area at the front of the school. The farm and teachers’/visitors’ car park should never be used at the beginning or end of the day. This is about student safety first and foremost but also equity. A simple tip would be to collect your son after 3.15pm as there is generally no waiting or lines at this time.

Parental support and partnership are critical to the success of the College and your son. I thank you in anticipation of your support of these matters.

Matthew Brennan, Deputy Headmaster

Mission

St Gregory’s College is in many ways a haven, on top of the hill and unknown to some of even our fairly close neighbours. Because of this and for many other reasons, I often arrive at work feeling I have left the world behind. But sometimes, we need to be reminded of our place in the bigger picture.

Last week our College band represented us in Mittagong as support staff from Marist schools around Australia gathered to share what they have in common – their Marist story.

As well as being Marists, as Catholics in Campbelltown we also belong to the Diocese of Wollongong. The Youth Ministry team are offering many opportunities for our young people to become connected to this network and experience that same sense of belonging with the wider church. In this newsletter and on the website is more information about an upcoming gathering, the Spirit Alive Youth Gathering. I encourage our students from Years 10, 11 and 12 to get together with friends and attend this event.

Information and documents regarding this Gathering can be found at Spirit Alive.

Solomon Islands Immersion
Please visit the news page to read Jack McNally’s report of this immersion. Photos can be viewed in the Galleries.

Cathie Clarke,
Director of Mission/RE Coordinator

Teaching and Learning

Last week Prue Salter from Enhanced Learning Educational Services ran a study skills session with Year 11, building on the work done with the boys in the previous years. The session focused on helping students identify changes and improvements they could make to their approach to their studies in order to maximise their results in their final years of school and in particular in the upcoming Preliminary examinations.

Parents are encouraged to review the handout from the session with their sons and discuss the main areas identified where changes need to be made. Parents can also find extra study skills tips on website: http://studyskillstoptipsparents.com

STUDY SKILLS TIP FOR AUGUST
FINDING HELP
Where can you find help for the following when you are struggling at school?

PERSONAL ISSUES
SUBJECT SPECIFIC ISSUES
LEARNING ISSUES

All students at our school also have access to a great study skills website to help students develop their skills.

Go to www.studyskillshandbook.com.au and enter the username: forstgregsonly and the password: 60results and start improving your results today!

Catherine Keegan,
Director of Teaching and Learning

To read Mrs Keegan’s full report, go to Teaching and Learning
Year 8 started Term three with the annual Year 8 Ladies and Young Gentlemen Etiquette Dinner, held on Wednesday 30 July in the Donovan Centre.

It was good to see a great number of mums all dressed up to spend a special evening with their sons. The young men were keen to impress with the etiquette skills they had learnt during our pastoral care lessons.

Our young gentlemen played host as Masters of Ceremonies for the evening and conducted themselves wonderfully. The boys looked after their treasured ladies on the night beautifully, setting the table correctly with cutlery, plates and glasses and also trying to impress with fancy napkin folding. The boys were responsible for serving their mums salads and drinks, demonstrating the correct bread roll eating etiquette, sharing some “do’s and don’ts” of the table, and finished with toasts to the special ladies in their lives and mateship. Watching the hugs and proud smiles as the mums opened their special written messages from their sons was a heartening moment. I hope it’s a night the ladies will remember for a long time.

I will soon send home a special keepsake for the memory of the experience you shared with your son. I would like to thank Mrs Jeffcoate, Mrs Stepien, Mrs Walsh, Mr Donohoe, Mrs Mitchell and the Year 8 Homeroom team who attended on the evening. It is the amazing support of the staff that allows such nights to be so successful.

I am proud of the young men of Year 8 so far this Term and I encourage them to keep up the high standards.

Loren Keir, Year 8 Coordinator

Photos from the Year 8 Etiquette dinner can be found in Galleries.
**Sports News**

**MCS TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP**
With strong performances from both our Juniors and Seniors, the College won the MCS Tennis Championship for the first time since 2004. Congratulations to the team, to Mr Albery, Coach and Mrs Sawyer, Manager.

**NSW CCC RUGBY LEAGUE AND FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS**
Our First Grade Rugby League team began the NSW CCC competition by defeating Mount Carmel, Varroville. The very deserving Man of the Match was Will Kerr. Congratulations to the team and their Coaches Mr Newell, Mr Dixon, Miss Burke and Mr Jamieson.

Our First Grade Football team is to play St Edward’s College, Gosford in the NSW CCC Championship.

**MCS AFL AND TOUCH**
The MCS AFL competition has begun with strong wins to 17 years and 14 years teams against Patrician Brothers, Fairfield.

**REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS**
Brad Hauville (Year 11) has been selected to the NSW U17 Rugby Union Team after representing NSW U17 Country in their first win over City since 2005.

Nathan Calman (Year 11) at the National Diving Championship in Melbourne won Gold in the 17-19 years Synchronized event, Silver in the 16 years Springboard and Silver in the 15-16 years Platform.

Brent Rushworth (Year 9), while representing Combined Catholic Colleges, placed 8th at the NSW All Schools Cross Country Championship.

Joseph Lantz, Sports Coordinator

The full sport report can be found at Sport

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**Other News**

**SPIRIT ALIVE YOUTH GATHERING – Friday 12 September 2014**
Don’t miss our Spirit Alive Festival being held on Friday 12 September at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Varroville. We are very fortunate this time to be joined by Sr Therese Mills, a Missionaries of God’s Love Sister from Canberra who regularly takes young people on mission trips in the Asia-Pacific region and has a passion for youth ministry. The evening includes music led by youth musicians, dinner (bring some money for dinner and canteen) and time to connect with other young people from across our Diocese.

Friday 12 September 2014, 6.30pm-9.30pm; Year 9 to 25 years; Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Hall, Varroville (193 St Andrews Rd, Varroville). For more information contact our Youth Office: youth@dow.org.au or 4222 2464. Proudly presented by Catholic Youth Ministry Wollongong.

www.facebook.com/cymdow

Download permission note for U18 via Spirit Alive.

**Western Front Tour 2016 – Applications Close Soon**
In April 2016, the History Department will again be offering a student tour to the Western Front in order to commemorate the Centenary period of World War I. This is following the success of the 2014 Tour where the boys who travelled returned saying that it was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The 2016 Tour is open to all boys in the College who will be in Year 9 or above in 2016, and will take place during the Term One Easter vacation period in 2016. All details have been emailed home and applications close August 15.

Megan Murdoch, HSIE Coordinator

**Careers News**
Want to receive the latest Careers News on what interests your son or daughter? Want to quickly find the information to help them with their choices?

Go to www.jobjump.com.au and watch the 3 minute video on the top right hand corner. Our school’s password is stallions.

Instructions are can be found on the College website at jobjump.

Sue Dein, Careers Adviser