Dear Members of the St Gregory’s Family,

In the book of Numbers from last Sunday’s readings it says, “Where can I get meat to give to all these people? I cannot carry all these people by myself, for they are too heavy for me.” Numbers: 11:13-14. When I think back to Moses and his dilemma when he was leading his people out of the wilderness and into the Promised Land, he had a problem with a lack of food at one stage. Moses turned to God for help and assistance. He had to have faith and a belief in God that he would get the support that he needed.

How many times do we reflect on our own lives and wonder whether we should or should not get out of bed and face the day as we know that there will be many mountains in front of us to scale. We know that some people just decide it is all too much and stay at home for the day hoping that the problems will dissipate by themselves. Unfortunately, as much as I like the idea, it doesn’t usually work as the problems are still in front of us the next day.

A positive outlook for each of us is that there is always someone who is willing to help us face our problems. We might not always like the suggested outcome but at least we can move forward and face the day.

In families at times, mothers and fathers I am sure struggle trying to raise children these days, whether it be struggling with finances, dealing with emotional problems or just trying to deal with their own lives and still look after their children.

No matter where we are placed in our lives, if we have faith, we always know that God is there to support us. Knowing that God is there gives us that peace of mind.

**Debating**

Congratulations to all the students and staff who have been involved in the Debating this year. At the recent Finals, it was announced that the College would receive the Junior Aggregate Shield for winning the most number of Debates in Years 7 – 10. Thanks to the many staff who are involved in this competition on a Friday night and are always present to support the students in this endeavour.

**Year 8 Etiquette Dinner**

The Year 8 Etiquette Dinner was held last week and it was a very successful evening with the room filled to capacity. The boys demonstrated what fine young men they are by displaying all forms of etiquette throughout the evening. I would like to thank Mrs Falas and Mrs Jeffcoate for organising the evening as well as the many staff that supported the evening and worked on the night as part of the service industry.

**Careers Forum**

The Careers Forum was recently held at the College with good attendances by students and parents. It was pleasing to see the increase in parent attendance. From the College’s point of view, it is all about engaging parents in their son’s education and gaining an understanding of the options that lie ahead. The presenters were very happy with the attendances and have signalled that they are prepared to come again next year.

**Homework Club**

The Homework Club is still in operation on a Monday afternoon in room 010 commencing at 3.15pm and concluding at 4.15pm.

**Uniform**

It was pleasing to return and see that the students are wearing their uniform with pride. I visited Camden last week and again the boys were well presented. We get many positive comments about the behaviour of the boys in public and the uniform also features in these comments. I often talk about standards and it is the little things that count. The public perception is all about ensuring that the little things are looked after and the bigger picture will always look good.

Quae Seminaveris Metes.

Damien Millar
Headmaster
Parents Parking in the Top Car Park:
A number of parents are avoiding the pick-up queue and parking in the top car park. Both myself and Mr Millar have been asking parents to move into the line when they have seen this happening. Please avoid the embarrassment of being asked to move your car by cooperating with our request to use the pick-up bay like most other people are doing.

Please avoid ringing your son on his mobile phone during the school day:
Of late there have been a number of boys who have been in trouble due to parents ringing them directly on their phones during the school day. The consequence for the student is confiscation of his phone and a detention. To avoid this from happening to your son please contact the College Office if you need to get a message to your son. We have a runner who will then deliver the message ASAP.

Year 9 Positive Behaviours Talk 21 August:
As a result of the successful talks to Years 10-12, staff and parents regarding positive behaviours relating to drug and alcohol use, we have engaged the services of a speaker (Jerrad Tyson) who will talk to Year 9 students. This presentation is designed to ‘feed into’ the talk delivered by Paul Dillon to Year 10 students. It is important to note that it does not discuss the safer use of alcohol, i.e., harm reduction messages. Instead, it attempts to provide ‘positive norms’ information to the audience, reinforcing that the vast majority of Year 9 students do not smoke, drink or use illicit drugs and that if they have made this positive choice, they are completely ‘normal’.

Stephen Kennaugh, Deputy Headmaster

Holbrook Sheep and Wool Fair
On Tuesday 11 June the College sent four boys to the Holbrook Sheep and Wool Fair along with 14 sheep. The Wool Fair is designed for students to learn about the industry and get hands on experience with a range of workshops and activities. The workshop activities started first thing on Wednesday and ran until lunch. This was a very good experience with many different workshops ranging from shearing to meat and wool judging. After lunch the Schools Competition was held. The College picked up many prizes including 1st – Milk Tooth Ram, 1st – Pair of Rams, 1st – Milk Tooth Ewe and 1st Four Tooth Ewe. The school also received the Reserve Champion Schools Ewe. In the general Corriedale competition, the College received many results with the top being 1st Milk Tooth Ram, 1st Pair of Rams, 1st and 2nd in 2 Tooth Ewe Class, 1st and 3rd in Pair of Ewes Class and 2nd in Group of 1 Ram and 2 Ewes. We also received Champion Corriedale Ewe and Grand Champion Dual Purpose Ewe. Our ewe then went on to be the Grand Champion Ewe of the Show. I would like to thank the boys for coming and Mr Stefanski and the College for providing us with such a great opportunity. I also give a very big congratulations to Lachlan Watkin who placed 7th out of 90 in the Junior Meat Sheep Judging.

David Thompson – Year 10
Year 8 have started Term three with some exciting events. On Monday 29 July the students participated in an Italian day that they all enjoyed. The boys were given a great presentation about the culture and famous places of Italy with Mr Vetrano and Mrs Santos in the morning, here at school, and then our cultural experience continued to La Piazza in Bankstown where the students got a taste for Italian food and the décor felt as if we had stepped into a piazza in Italy. The boys didn’t let anything go to waste, enjoying pizza, pasta and gelato with their closest friends.

Our most recent event on Wednesday 31 July 2013 was the annual Year 8 Ladies and Young Gentlemen Etiquette Dinner, held 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 Master 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, Mr Millar, Mr Kennaugh 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.

Kristy Falas,
Year 8 Coordinator

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**INFORMATION ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY**

The Better Access Program
A mental health treatment initiative available to all age groups, child to adult, that allows for 10 Medicare-assisted sessions with a Psychologist upon referral from a GP or Paediatrician. Further information is available at:

Access to Allied Psychological Services

Erin Pilon, School Psychologist

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For information for parents and students about digital citizenship and online safety, go to

Parents please remember that if your son is unable to participate in Sport on Thursday he needs to have a note signed by you. Your son will go to Sport Detention where he will have supervised study or reading. If your son does not have a note he will be sent to the College Clinic for appraisal of his condition. Thursday Sport is not meant to be a time for your son to catch up on Assessment Tasks or Study except in the case of Year 12 students in preparation of their HSC. Thursday Sport is actually mandated required hours for the NSW Board of Studies and is seen as an invaluable part of your son’s holistic development in education. The College offers a very wide range of activities to assist your son in his growth.

GIO AND NSW ALL SCHOOLS RUGBY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The College’s second GIO game was against the always strong Endeavour Sports High School. This was another really good performance by our First Grade Rugby League team. While going down 14 - 26 the game wasn’t decided until the closing minutes. In the final game of the GIO Schoolboys Cup the First Grade Rugby League team defeated Matraville Sports High School 26-22. Sal Brancato (Year 11) was named “Player of the Match”. The win places St Gregory’s second in our Pool of competition and we finished in the top 8 schools in the nation. These are outstanding results by the team and their Coaches, Mr Newell and Mr Dixon, aided by Manager, Miss Burke.

Our College has recently competed in the NSW Rugby League All Schools KO Carnival. While our 13, 14 and 15 years Rugby League teams did not make the Semi Finals this year they continue to compete strongly in the Elite Division of the NSW All Schools Carnival.

MCS TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP

Last week was the concluding second week of the MCS Tennis Championship which saw St Gregory’s place third in the Junior and Aggregate Shields. The outstanding performance goes to Kellund Jeffries who won the 14 years Singles Championship. Further highlights include Ryan Sakowicz and Liam Novak, Runners Up in the 14 years Doubles, Alexander Reid, 13 years Singles Semi Finalist, Ethan Scott and Daniel Lowe, 13 years Doubles Semi Finalists, and Brandano Beron and Kieran Cooper, Open Doubles Semi Finalists. This was a great effort by the Tennis team and their Coach, Mr Albery.

MCS AFL AND TOUCH

Last Thursday in a great start to the MCS AFL competition St Gregory’s defeated Fairfield 89 – 0 in the Opens and 129 – 0 in the 14 years. They will play Greystanes this week. The MCS Touch competition begins this week with the College having teams in the 13, 15 and 17 years divisions. All games will be played at Endeavour Reserve, Canley Vale.

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS AND AWARDS

Alexander Cooper (Year 11) and Michael O’Leary (Year 9) have been selected to the MCS Softball team for the CCC Championship.

Forthcoming Events

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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>ISA Round 7 St Greg’s vs Kinross Wolaroi (H)</td>
<td>10 Aug</td>
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<tr>
<td>CCC Rugby League Cup vs Woodlawn</td>
<td>12-13 Aug</td>
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<tr>
<td>CCC Softball</td>
<td>14 Aug</td>
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<tr>
<td>MCS Athletics Carnival - Homebush</td>
<td>15 Aug</td>
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<tr>
<td>MCS AFL and Touch</td>
<td>22 Aug</td>
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Joseph Lantz, Sports Coordinator

NAIDOC WEEK

A very successful assembly was held on Friday 19 July to celebrate NAIDOC week. Our indigenous boys all had the opportunity to participate, from holding the large coloured letters that made up the opening message to reading, presenting, singing or dancing.

The theme for NAIDOC week this year was “We value the vision: Yirrkala Bark Petitions 1963”. Yirrkala is a small Aboriginal settlement in East Arnhem Land and the centre of an Aboriginal protest against annexation of traditional Yolngu lands for bauxite mining in the 1960's.

Highlights of the assembly were:

- Fabulous MC’ing by Tim O’Connor and Matthew Sheather (Year 12)
- A colourful PowerPoint presentation constructed by Miss Khoury accompanied the excellent reading of Taine Martin (Year 8), Allan McKenzie and Elijah Duroux (Year 9), Harry Wighton and Harry Cotterall (Year 10), Billy Siemsen and Hamish Albany (Year 11) and Gary Charles and David Green (Year 12)
- Sam Colosimo, Hamish Albany and Joshua Hogan presented on Marist Basketball Carnival in Alice Springs; a week experience at NSW University and a week in Canberra in a ‘Learn, Earn, Legend’ program
- Uncle Ivan Wellington, local Tharawal elder, performed a ‘Welcome to Country’
- Ms Leonie Wheeler (teacher, photographer and documentary film-maker from the Northern Territory) spoke about life in remote communities and presented a montage of her images titled “Sons of East Arnhem”
- The school choir was outstanding with their acapella rendition of a language song ‘Nganydji djina-la galin wu djirra’ which means ‘Keep on Walking Forward’
- Sixteen boys from Year 7, 8 and 9 excelled themselves with a contemporary mix of hip-hop and traditional dancing.

The assembly was very well received by students, staff and guests. Our Indigenous boys were outstanding in their presentation of themselves and the content they were delivering. This annual assembly provides an opportunity for many boys to stretch themselves outside of their perceived comfort zone. Some boys told me that they had never been on stage before in any capacity. Nerves and anxiety invariably give way to excitement and self-satisfaction after the fact. I see it as a great growth opportunity for our Indigenous boys and I am often asked “When can I do it again?”. No boy has EVER said to me, “I’m never doing that again!”

Julie Harmour, Aboriginal Liaison Officer