Dear Members of the St Gregory’s Family,

“Loving more inclusively”

This is a challenge for all of us from the national scene to our own local scene. In Luke’s Gospel, he mentions that people will come from everywhere to sit at the table in the Kingdom of God.

We live in a land of plenty and yet as someone mentioned recently to me, it is the people in other lands who seem to be able to get by on nearly nothing and still be happy. We are a nation where possibly many are looking for the next piece of technology and yet are we reflecting on how we are living our lives and what we are doing with our resources. We read continually about people trying to enter our country illegally which tells me that they believe they will have a better life here than in their own country. Do we put out the welcome mat or do we make it as difficult as possible for people to enter the country and share our resources? As we all know, our politicians are struggling with this issue.

At the local level, do we go out of our way to help a fellow community member or do we give people a difficult time? Do we offer help readily or do we tease, name call or be a general nuisance? We will not always get along with everyone in our community but we have to treat everyone with respect and dignity as we would also like to be treated. Christ makes demands on us to live our faith by demonstrating from a practical nature how we can make the world a better place.

We are all welcome at the Lord’s Table but is everyone welcome at our local table and if not, what are we going to do about it? We all have an obligation to improve the world we live in.

Activities

Quota International - Congratulations to Jack McNally (Year 10) on being selected for the State Final of Quota International. The Final was held last weekend and although Jack did not take out the first prize, I can honestly say I was very impressed with his public speaking. I am sure he will collect more trophies before he finishes.

MCS Athletics – Congratulations to Mr Harrison and the team on their success in taking out the Aggregate Shield and the Junior Shield once again.

Parent Forums – Thank you to the Years 10, 11 and 12 parents who braved the weather to attend the Forum two weeks ago! A number of issues were raised and they are issues that need further discussion.

Mobile App

The College has now established a new phone app that can be downloaded from the iTunes store which is another way the College is endeavouring to stay in touch with our community.

Year 12 Dates

A reminder to our Year 12 parents (whose son(s) are involved in co-curricular activities), that the Co-curricular Evening is Monday 2 September commencing at 7.30 pm. Letters and invitations were sent to Parents last week. The Year 12 Graduation Day is Friday 20 September. An email will be sent to Parents next week.

Student Leave

I would remind parents that applications should be made when you are taking your son out of school for a prolonged period of time. I understand that, at times, this leave is unavoidable due to personal circumstances, however it should be minimised as the College holidays are marked in the calendar and I believe that they are more than adequate. Assessment and exam times also should be taken into account when requesting this leave. The exams and assessment tasks are also listed in the Assessment Calendar.

Quae Seminaveris Metes.

Damien Millar
Headmaster
Monday 26 August 2013
Years 8 and 9 Parent Forums
Commencing at 9.00am and 7.30pm in the Donovan Centre

Tuesday 27 August 2013
Parent Teacher interviews
3.30pm—7.00pm in the Br Luke Hall

Wednesday 28 August 2013
2013 College Photo Day
Please note these important details, in preparation for the photo day.

➢ On the day students must:
  • Arrive in full winter uniform as outlined on page 37 of the Student Diary
  • Be appropriately groomed
  • Bring sports uniform and other co-curricular equipment
➢ All photo order envelopes must be returned with the method of payment and handed to the photographers
➢ Individual photo envelopes will be given to each student via homeroom once they arrive

Saturday 31 August 2013
Year 7 Boys & Blokes Trivia Evening
Commencing with dinner at 5.30pm in the Donovan Centre
Followed by Mass in the Chapel at 6.00pm

Monday 2 September 2013
Year 12 Co-curricular Night
7.00pm for 7.30pm commencement in the Br Luke Hall
All recipients must attend wearing full winter school uniform

Tuesday 3 September 2013
College Mass for the Feast of St Gregory
Commencing at 9.00am in the Br Luke Hall
All families and friends of the College are welcome to attend

Wednesday 4 September 2013
Year 9 2014 Information Night
Commencing at 7.30pm in the Br Luke Hall
Students are to attend wearing full winter school uniform

Friday 6 September 2013
National Junior Heifer Show
(concludes 8/9)
Junior Dance with St Patrick’s College
7.00pm until 10.00pm in the Br Luke Hall

Saturday 7 September 2013
The Reading Hours
4.45pm — 8pm in the Donovan Centre

Monday 9 September 2013
Year 11 Exams commence
(conclude Thursday 19 September)

From the Deputy Headmaster …..

Parent Teacher Meetings Term 3
The Parent/Student/Teacher interviews for students in Years 7-12 for Term 3 will be held in the Brother Luke Hall. These interviews provide an invaluable opportunity to discuss student progress with classroom teachers. The interview date and times are:

Tuesday 27th August from 3.30pm to 7.00pm

Online bookings can be made on website:

www.schoolinterviews.com.au

using the school event code 2G4WJ. Bookings are now open and close at 10am on 27 August.

Year 9 Positive Behaviours Talk 21 August
The presentation went very well with the Year 9 boys receiving some essential information on positive norms relating to the use of drugs and alcohol. Please speak to your sons about the talk. I would be grateful for any feedback you have stemming from your discussions with your son on the topic as it will help to shape future directions in our Pastoral Care Program.

Positive Behaviours
◆ During the week I spoke with the Manager at Woolworths Camden who said how polite and respectful our boys have been. This type of feedback is common and is a testament to the upbringing of our boys.
◆ It was great to see our boys wait for girls from another school to get onto the bus at the Station. This type of etiquette, although an expectation at St Gregory’s College, is not common in our society today. Well done boys.
◆ Thank you to the students who have been cleaning the buses upon arrival at the College and their destinations. Will Russell (Year 12), Austin McCourt and David Tranby (Year 11) are three that I am aware of but I am sure there are many more. Thank you to all boys who do this. I know it is appreciated by the Bus Drivers and it is certainly appreciated by the College.

If you know of any other positive stories about our boys please let me know.

Stephen Kennough, Deputy Principal

The St Vincent de Paul Society is a Catholic voluntary group which works within local communities to support the disadvantaged. The local chapter is short on volunteers at the moment, with help particularly needed to support the Claymore Community Centre.

If you feel you would like to help or would like to discuss the possibilities, please call Paul Whiting on 0407835366. More information on the type of services provided by this volunteer group can be found at

http://thejunctionworks.org/services/community-services/claymore-community-centre/
I would like to start by expressing how proud I am of this Year group. Many of the students in Year 10 were involved in numerous activities during Semester 1 that have certainly left an unforgettable impression with their peers and staff alike. It is a pleasure to see so many young men putting up their hands to help out and be involved in all parts of College life. Their mature attitude and solid work ethics have been noted by many members of the College community.

As Term 2 concluded, over the holidays Year 10 students were asked to find suitable Work Experience and start to consider their senior subject selections for 2014. This can be a stressful process as some students are still discovering their preferred career path. To assist the boys and their families an Information Evening was held at school to further clarify any concerns and questions parents might have. The evening was very successful with many parents attending.

Earlier this term all of Year 10 sat through an interesting presentation by Mr Paul Dillon. Mr Dillon presented on drugs and alcohol and responsibilities when faced in a difficult situation. The students sat through a statistical presentation to make them aware of the legal ramifications of young people and the choices they make. It was a very successful presentation.

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 Expo afternoon in the Br Luke Hall. The Careers Expo 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 addition assistance in certain career paths. I would like to thank Mrs Dein for setting up the event.

Year 10 has been busy this year in many successful extra-curricular activities.

**Debating and Public Speaking** has been represented in a grand scale!

The Year 10 group was crowned CSDA Debating competition semi–finalist.

**Speakers were Jack McNally, Patrick Cooke, Luke Grosvenor and Ivan Brcic.**

**Jack McNally** was a regional finalist in the Quota Student of the Year Quest and winner of the CSDA Public Speaking Competition 2013. He also was a finalist in the Rostrum Voice of Youth Public Speaking Competition. What a fantastic achievement!

The **Year 10 Football team** also showcased their exceptional ability in winning the MCS Year 10 Football competition for the first time in many years! The team came from 4th place to beat St Pat’s Fairfield in the semi-finals and St Dom’s in the final. I congratulate the boys on such an excellent achievement.

**Baldino Vetrano, Year 10 Coordinator**
MCS ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIP
An excellent effort by our Athletics Squad saw the College retain the MCS Championship by winning the Junior Shield, placing second in the Senior Shield and winning the Aggregate Shield. Congratulations to the team and their coaching staff of Mr Harrison, Mrs Monte, Mr Wilson and Mr Serone.

NSW CCC RUGBY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP
In the last of this year’s Rugby League competitions in the Round of 16 St Gregory’s was to play St John’s College, Woodlawn. The long 10 hour trip to Lismore had our First Grade Rugby League team very tuned out to playing when they came up against a very committed St John’s team. After trailing 10-20 into the second half St Gregory’s came back to win in extra time 24-20. Mr Newell, First Grade Coach, was pleased with the way the team finished strongly to win the game and acknowledged the quality of the St John’s College team. Our First Grade will need to start strongly this week when we host St Dominic’s College, Penrith in the Quarter Final of the Combined Catholic Colleges this Thursday afternoon.

MCS AFL AND TOUCH
A rained out second round to the AFL and Touch competitions and a break in the schedule for the MCS Athletics Carnival has made for a slow start to the respective competitions this year. These competitions recommence this week.

COACHES

AFL

14 years  Stephen Hartnett
Manager: Kathleen McKimm

17 years  Michelle Mulligan
Manager: Maryanne Pickard

TOUCH

13 years  Kerry Todd
15 years  Brendan O’Flynn
17 years  Loren Keir

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS AND AWARDS
Dylan Gavin (Year 10) joined Alexander Cooper (Year 11) and Michael O’Leary (Year 9) in representing MCS at the CCC Open Softball Championship. The MCS team placed second and all three St Gregory’s students were selected to the NSW CCC representative team.

Joseph Lantz, Sports Coordinator

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Forthcoming Events

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<td>MCS AFL and Touch</td>
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<td>MCS Golf (14 years – Opens)</td>
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<td>5 Sept</td>
<td>MCS AFL and Touch</td>
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<td>MCS Golf (12 – 13 years)</td>
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<td>8 Sept</td>
<td>NSW All Schools Rugby 7’s</td>
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<td>12 Sept</td>
<td>MCS AFL (Semi Finals) and Touch</td>
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<td>13 Sept</td>
<td>NSW CCC Athletics at Homebush</td>
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<td>19 Sept</td>
<td>MCS AFL and Touch (Grand Finals)</td>
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Well done to Old Boy, Nic White

The College can proudly boast of yet another Old Boy who is achieving remarkable success in the sporting arena.

Nic White from the class of 2008 recently became the 785th Wallaby and made his Test Rugby debut against New Zealand last Saturday night at ANZ Stadium. A two time Australian representative at the Under 20 Junior World Championship, Nic has thrived during the last two years after being given a shot at the starting role with the Brumbies.

A shoulder injury from 2012 impeded his progress again this year, after he damaged it again in the round before Test selection. This meant he missed out on selection for the Wallabies, as well as the Brumbies’ historic win over the British and Irish Lions.

Back to full health and again starting for the Brumbies late in the Super Rugby season, Nic featured in the Brumbies playoff run starting in all three of their final games this year. This then led to Nic being named in the Wallabies first squad selection, with an extended 40 man group being assembled for the 2013 Castrol EDGE Rugby Championship.

Nic plays in the position of Scrumhalf and was recently described as the Hunter region’s most dynamic rugby success, a boisterous scrumhalf who has quickly developed into a key ingredient the Brumbies could not do without.