Dear Members of the St Gregory’s College Family,

Feast of St Gregory the Great
On Wednesday 3 September, the College celebrated with Mass for the Feast of St Gregory the Great at Mt Carmel. Thank you to Mrs Clarke for organising another wonderful Mass. The appearance of St Gregory to deliver the Homily was another great innovation of Mrs Clarke’s, she continues to produce stimulating ideas for our homilies with a relevant message for the young men of the College.

St. Gregory, born at Rome about the year 540, was the son of Gordianus, a wealthy Senator, who later renounced the world and became one of the seven Deacons of Rome. After he had acquired the usual thorough education, Emperor Justin the Younger appointed him, in 574, Chief Magistrate of Rome, though he was only thirty-four years of age.

After the death of his father, he built six monasteries in Sicily and founded a seventh in his own house in Rome, which became the Benedictine Monastery of St. Andrew. Here, he himself assumed the monastic habit in 575, at the age of thirty-five.

After the death of Pelagius, St. Gregory was chosen Pope by the unanimous consent of Priests and people. Now began those labours which merited for him the title of Great. His zeal extended over the entire known world, he was in contact with all the Churches of Christendom and, in spite of his bodily sufferings, and innumerable labours and he found time to compose a great number of works. He is known above all for his magnificent contributions to the Liturgy of the Mass and Office. He is one of the four great Doctors of the Latin Church. He died March 12, 604. He is the Patron of Teachers. (Taken from Catholic on line)

Prayers
I would ask that you keep the Parr family in your thoughts and prayers as the boys (Callum, Year 10 and Nick, Year 7) lost their grandfather last week. The Year 12 students and their families are entering their final countdown towards College Graduation and I would ask you to keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they travel through these last few weeks at the College.

College Leaders 2015
Congratulations to the new College Leaders for 2015 on their successful election to take on the mantle of leading St Gregory’s into the College’s 89th year. In particular, congratulations to Ivan Brcic, College Captain, Daniel White, College Vice Captain and Luke Grosvenor, Marist Solidarity. I am sure this team of leaders will do a wonderful job of leading the College in 2015.

Year 12 Co-curricular Evening
The evening was held in the Donovan Centre last Monday. The evening commenced with supper on the tiles and then progressed into the Donovan Centre for the presentation. The College had two guest speakers for the evening, Mr Todd Greenberg from the NRL and an actor, Andrew Johnston. Both men had a similar message and were entertaining or mesmerizing in their delivery. I am sure that the young men would have taken on board the message from both speakers. It was pleasing to see so many young men receiving awards and acknowledgments for their contribution to the Co-curricular program. It was also pleasing to see that over 82% of the class have been involved in the activities offered at the College.

Year 12 Graduation Mass
The Mass will be held at the College on Friday 19 September, commencing at 9.00 am in a marquee that will be set up on the oval. There will be seating for 1300 people which should give everyone a seat inside the marquee. Hopefully it will be a fine day and a successful one in light of using a marquee as our venue for the Mass.

Year 11 Exams
The Year 11 Exams commence next week as the young men move towards completion of their preliminary year. When the Year 11 students return to the College in Term 4, they will be embarking on their final year at the College as they commence their Year 12 studies. I wish them every success with their exams in the coming weeks, as a successful completion of Year 11 will set them up for a good start for Year 12.

Quae Seminaveris Metes.

Damien Millar
Headmaster
Teaching and Learning

Mission

At our Mass of St Gregory on Wednesday, the Traditio ceremony took place when our new leaders received the College symbols from our Year 12s and promised to uphold the traditions which these symbols represent. St Gregory also made a visit (thanks Mr Nelson) and we heard about his life and the things that were important to him. At the end of his reflection he said, “My legacy is useless however unless it is passed on. So to whom can I pass my hat and my crozier?”

As a College, we have St Gregory as our patron and so it is our responsibility to take on the hat and crozier. The things which were important to St Gregory and should be important to us include courageous leadership, education and knowledge, writing and books, missionary work, the important role of women, beautiful liturgy and especially beautiful music in liturgy.

Our community does many of these things very well.

St Gregory also created a title for himself - servant of the servants of God. I congratulate our new leaders and wish them well in their year of being servants to the servants of God.

Cathie Clarke,
Director of Mission/RE Coordinator

Year 9 News

By the time Term 3 arrives most Year 9 students believe they are strong, fearless and ‘bullet proof’. Immunisation time showed another side to many of ‘our heroes’ as they waited anxiously for injections. It also provided the Year Coordinator with an alternate and very effective student management tool – one boy pleading “I’ll be good all year if I don’t have to have this needle”.

In yet another Term of numerous activities and frenetic pace, Year 9 continue at the forefront of involvement and contribution toward College life. Highlights included a highly enjoyable and educational excursion to the Wollongong Science Centre and Planetarium. Boys had the opportunity to view a wide range of exhibits, test the speed of the throwing arms, battled motion sickness and played with liquid nitrogen. These activities are just a small cross section of the many worthwhile and hands-on exhibits on display. My thanks to the Science Department for the planning and organisation of the day.

During a recent Pastoral Care meeting, Ms Maryanne Pickard and Mrs Jenny Bunce spoke insightfully and honestly to the Year group on the themes ‘Respect for Women’ and ‘Images of Masculinity’. Their observations, ideals and anecdotes kept the audience totally enthralled and hopefully had a huge influence on the way these young men treat women in their lives. I would personally like to thank and acknowledge both these outstanding women on pertinent and moving presentations.

At the completion of the meeting students were asked the question: “What type of man will you be?”

Hopefully, this question will prompt further discussion and reflection as the year progresses.

Peter Hogan, Year 9 Coordinator

SCIENCE WEEK

Students at St Gregory’s recently participated in a number of Science Week activities.

Year 11 Senior Science students conducted a field study of the cold climate rainforest at Mt Keira near Wollongong. Students were pleasantly surprised by the biodiversity of this nearby oasis and enjoyed surveying and catching some of the organisms.

Year 9 students got ‘hands-on’ at the Wollongong Science Centre and enjoyed a Science Hunt for prizes. They were also in awe of the planetarium and the explanation of the night sky and some of its many wonders.

Year 7 students also got ‘hands-on’ in a couple of contexts. The scaly friends from The Australian Reptile Park paid their annual visit to the delight and distress of the reptile likers and haters alike. They also revelled in the opportunity to make a working model and among the grade produced an amazing range including hover crafts, solar vehicles and wind turbines. Rumour has it some of the parents may have enjoyed these projects too!

David Clarke, Science Coordinator

Photos from Science excursions can be found in Galleries
Introducing our College Leaders for 2015

Congratulations to the following Year 11 students who have been elected College Leaders for 2015:

Ivan Brcic  
College Captain

Daniel White  
College Vice Captain

Luke Grosvenor  
Marist Solidarity Leader

James Bosnich  
College Leader

Thomas Condon  
College Leader

Alastair de Franck  
College Leader

Daniel De Vecchis  
College Leader

Thomas Gonzalez  
College Leader

Samuel Grace  
College Leader

Lachlan Inger  
College Leader

Samuel Limbre  
College Leader

Daniel McIntosh  
College Leader

Jack McNally  
College Leader

Liam Mulvihill  
College Leader

Vincent Ryan  
College Leader

James Vella  
College Leader
Sports News

A great conclusion to this year’s MCS Carnival Championships has St Gregory’s placing third in Swimming, second in Golf and winning the Cross Country, Athletics and Tennis. Congratulations to the students in these teams and members of staff who contribute to the sporting success of our College.

All students are reminded that registration for Term 4 sports will begin in Week 9.

MCS GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP
In another strong performance in the MCS Championships this year, the College Golf team placed second in all three major divisions of competition – Junior, Senior and Aggregate. In the Age Divisions St Gregory’s won the 16 years and placed second in the 17 years and Opens.

NSW CCC RUGBY LEAGUE AND FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS
Our First Grade Soccer team finally played St Edward’s College, Gosford in the Quarter Final of the NSW CCC Open Championship, unfortunately going down 2-1.

In a great effort, St Gregory’s First Grade team defeated Holy Cross College, Ryde 22-10 in the NSW CCC Rugby League Cup Semi Final played this week.

MCS AFL AND TOUCH
Rain has washed out the last fortnight of competition. AFL Semi Finals will be held in Week 9 and Grand Finals for both AFL and Touch in Week 10.

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS
Brent Rushworth (Year 9 – 15 years) placed 35th at the National Cross Country Championship.
Declan Grohala (Year 9—14 years) swam Personal Bests at the NSW State Championship, winning the 200m Breaststroke and placing third in the 100m Breaststroke.

Joseph Lantz, Sports Coordinator
The full Sports report can be found in the News section of the College website.

Other News

Replacement Starter Pack Equipment

Please note that from 25 August, replacement student diaries and starter pack equipment (headphones, apron, earplugs, safety glasses, calculator, pen pack, book pack and art pack) has been available from the Book Hire department. Although no longer part of the starter pack, there are also a limited number of USB’s, locker locks and satchel bags available for resale. Purchases are recharged to the student’s school fee account. No money is handled in Book Hire. Please contact Ms Simich on 4629 4296 if you have any questions re this.

John Sammut,
Finance Manager

College Choir Win at Penrith Eisteddfod

August 14 was an exciting day for the College Choir. Throughout year we have been preparing for the Annual Penrith Eisteddfod, that we as a College would be competing in for the first time. We ventured to the ‘Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre’ in Penrith to compete against several other schools; both co-educational and all girls colleges. Being our first experience, and not knowing what to expect, the boys watched in anticipation each other school and their excellent performances. St. Gregory’s College Choir competed in two sections, 1. High School Choir – Unrestricted and 2. Vocal Ensemble (16 members), performing two pieces in each section. The competition was tough with many schools demonstrating such professionalism and quality sound. The Unrestricted section was first and the boys sang ‘Tears in Heaven’ and ‘Fields of Gold’ winning us a 2nd. The Vocal Ensemble followed singing ‘Timshel’ and ‘I’ll Be There For You’ seeing us win 1st place, we were ecstatic! The boys of the choir have been preparing each week and been putting in 100% effort, which obviously paid off. The judges stated that St. Gregory’s Choir was “a very impressive group, congratulations”. A huge thank you to Ms Julie Harmour and Mr Bernard Malone for their constant support. We are looking forward to the future and many more wins at competitions. Feel free to join us.

James Clanfield,
Choir Director

Important Date for Year 7 Families

Grandparents’ Day

Due to building works at the College, it was necessary this year for us to delay Year 7 Grandparents’ Day. Grandparents’ Day will now be held on Friday 5 December 2014. Details will be available in coming weeks.

Sports Events

28 August:
MCS AFL and Touch competitions

1 September:
Year 12 Co-Curricular Evening in the Donovan Centre

4 September:
Sports Photo Day—Sporting Uniforms required for team photos
MCS AFL and Touch competitions