Dear Members of the St Gregory’ Family,

Living with Humility
In Luke’s gospel he talks about people’s inability to repay people. What he is talking about is the fact that people can tend to do things for others in order to get thanked. Luke’s argument is that it won’t necessarily happen and we shouldn’t be doing things just to get thanked or noticed. We should actually be doing things for others because it is the correct thing to do. An easy example would be that we don’t invite friends out to dinner on the understanding that the debt will be repaid, we do it because presumably we enjoy their company or this could be a way of saying thank you. Do we stand back and hold the door open for a lady and expect thanks or do we do it because it demonstrates good manners? I am sure that the young men of the College do it because it is an example of good manners.

When it comes to leadership, we have to lead by example and it doesn’t matter whether you have a title or not, it is really about trying to make the world and or our own community a better place. From a leadership perspective, we can all stand back and do things that will improve our community but the motivation shouldn’t be to get noticed or to get thanked, it should be about making the community and/or the world a better place to live in.

You might remember the parable when Christ cured the ten lepers and they all go away very happy and understandably so. In one way, you could excuse their lack of thanks because it must have been such a shock for them that someone could actually cure them. We know that one did come back to say thank you. If only one comes back to say thank you for Christ, why would we be expecting any more.

I suggest that we all think about our actions and motivations – why do we do what we do?

Prayers
I would ask you to keep Jaycob Seal (Year 8) and his family in your thoughts and prayers as his grandfather passed away recently.

Public Speaking
Congratulations to our students who have represented the College in the last few weeks in the final public speaking engagements. The team achieved very well at the South Coast Public Speaking Competition and at the Marist Oratory. The Marist Oratory is a competition amongst all the Marist schools across Sydney. The team has now come second for the last three years. Congratulations to Sean Mabin who came first in Year 8 and Zak Hackett who was placed second in Year 7. Congratulations also to Patrick Cooke who was placed first in Year 10 at the South Coast Competition.

College Leaders
Congratulations to the College Leadership team on their selection for 2014. The number of students has been increased due to the large numbers of students we now have in Year 11. The calibre of students in Year 11 is outstanding and I would expect the Year group to make their mark on the College over the next twelve months. Congratulations to Luke Hughes, College Captain, Mark McCormack, College Vice Captain and Luke Vella, Marist Solidarity Leader.

Building
I have been given permission to go ahead with the building plans for the next few years. The DA Application for the Hall extension will be lodged with Council this week in the hope that we can go to tender by October and get the project under way by January. I would be hoping that the Hall will be completed for the Graduation of the Year 12, 2014 class. I will provide more details at the next Parent Forum.

Parent Forum
It was decided at the Term 3 Parent Forums, that there would be one more Parent Forum for the year which will be across all Year groups. There will be a 9.00am and a 7.30pm session to be held on Monday 18 November 2013. I will discuss more of the details for future plans at this next meeting.

Quae Seminaveris Metes.

Damien Millar
Headmaster
From the Deputy Headmaster …..

Parent Teacher Meetings Term 3:
Thank you to the parents who took advantage of the opportunity to see teachers. If a teacher was absent for the interviews and you would like to contact them please do so via phone or email.

Year 12 Co-Curricular Awards Night
Thank you to all the boys who participated in the evening. Thank you also to Ms Ferenc and the Year 12 Art class who exhibited their major works in the Donovan Centre. Thank you to Mrs Jeffcoate, Mr Lantz, Miss Khoury and Mr Newell for their contribution as well as Maree and the catering team for the food and beverages. Thank you to all the parents and family members who came in support of the event.

PUBLIC SPEAKING and DEBATING

This Term has been again been very successful on the Public Speaking front.

The South Coast Public Speaking Competition was held on Tuesday 20 August, we again travelled to Holy Spirit College, Bellambi on this occasion. Representing us were Zak Hackett in Year 7, Sam Hackett, Josiah Moehau and Bailey Irvancic in Year 9, Jack McNally and Patrick Cooke in Year 10, Nicholas O’Neill, Jack Hudson and David Tranyba in Year 11. This was a very successful evening, with Patrick Cooke winning first place in his division, Zak Hackett, Bailey Irvancic, Jack McNally and Jack Hudson all placed third in their respective divisions.

We have continued to have a great season of Public Speaking this year and I expect this will only continue in future years.

The 23rd Annual MSA Oratory Competition was held by Marist College Eastwood on Wednesday 21 August 2013. St Gregory’s College won the Jeanne Marie Chavoin Encouragement Award Trophy for the 3rd year running at this year’s MSA Oratory Competition, coming second. Our students eagerly delivered their speeches at the competition which involved 12 other Marist Colleges. The night went extremely well and saw two St Gregory’s College students receiving placements.

The students who represented the College at this year’s Marist Oratory Competition were; Zak Hackett in Year 7, Sean Mabin in Year 8, Sam Hackett in Year 9, Jack McNally in Year 10, Jordan McCarthy in Year 11 and Dominic Andrew in Year 12.

Zak Hackett gained second place in the Year 7 division and Sean Mabin took out first place in the Year 8 division. The College gained second place in the overall competition which is allocated on total points scored.

On the Debating front, an incredible finish for our 2013 season was the College winning the CSDA Junior Debating Aggregate Shield. The shield is awarded to the school which wins the most debates on aggregate in Years 7-10. In this year’s competition, there were over 70 schools involved, so this is an amazing achievement.

We eagerly look forward to another exciting season of Public Speaking and Debating in 2014.

Mrs Maria Santos
Public Speaking and Debating Coordinator

Marist Oratory
Front row: Sean Mabin, Jack McNally and Zak Hackett
Back row: Dominic Andrew, Jordan McCarthy, and Sam Hackett
What’s been happening with Year 7

Term 3 has been a turning point for many Year 7 students. Some who struggled through the first semester are now showing enormous improvement in behaviour and academic application and should be highly commended on their efforts. This has been evident by the 48 Blue merits and 25 White merits that have been recorded so far.

Recent parent/teacher interviews gave more feedback to parents on their son’s progress so far this semester.

The combined Year 7 and Year 12 Mass on Wednesday 28 August was a wonderful event, the singing and participation by both Year groups was spectacular.

The Year 7 Boys and Blokes Trivia/Mass night was well attended and by all indications a resounding success especially for Table 12 who won the night in a close tie-breaker. Many varied and bizarre questions sorted out the tables throughout the night with 3 building activities creating a very competitive atmosphere. A question that really caught out the majority of players was “In the novel ‘Frankenstein’ the monster was created from body parts? True or False” (Check with a Year 7 boy for the answer). Overall, it was a wonderful night and I would like to again thank all the staff who attended to make it run smoothly.

Our next event was the Feast of St Gregory Mass on Tuesday 3 September. This Mass included the Traditio ceremony where symbols of the College are handed from Year 12 to Year 11. To be present at this Mass for the first time was quite significant for Year 7 students.

Next week we have Geography/History excursions on 11 September and on Friday 13 September a performance by the Brainstorm Productions.

I would like to congratulate the boys on their efforts in class, on the sporting field and all the other College events that they have been involved in.

Stephen Hartnett, Year 7 Coordinator

From the Director of Mission:

On Tuesday, our community came together for Mass to celebrate the feast of our patron, St Gregory the Great. The theme of the year for Marist schools is iBelieve and in our liturgy we were able to link this with the story and legacy of St Gregory. He was the son of a wealthy Roman senator who went on to reject the riches and status he was born into and become a humble servant of God and his Church. He was an example of someone who had to work out what he believed to be right, and who made dramatic changes in his lifestyle to live as a man of integrity.

The homily for our celebration was prepared and presented by a group of students who reflected on the things they had learned in their RE classes and how they applied to this feast. Their key words were community, humility, simplicity, compassion and discipleship – reminders to all of us of the best way to live out our faith. I congratulate these boys for their ability to articulate their understanding and their willingness to be witnesses to their faith.

At our Mass we were able to join in gratitude for the blessings we have as a result of the traditions inherent at St Gregory’s College. We witnessed the Traditio Ceremony in which our Year 12 class passed on the symbols of these traditions to the upcoming leaders. I wish our current leaders well and thank them for their dedication and generosity of time and enthusiasm.

I congratulate the new leaders and look forward to working with them in service to our community.

Joshua Brady Lachlan Carter
Lachlan Gadd Alexander Masima
Jordan McCarthy Christopher McCue
Cameron Menzies Jacob Mitchell
Ashleigh Nisbet Nicholas O’Neill
Aaron Pejakovic Cameron Powe
Jonah Price Jacob Spaccavento
John Spencer Joe Tildsley
David Tranby

Our Marist Solidarity Leader is Luke Vella
Our College Vice-Captain is Mark McCormack
Our College Captain for 2014 is Luke Hughes

Cathie Clarke, Director of Mission/RE Coordinator
All students are to select their Term 4 Thursday sporting activity though the College Web Site before Monday 15 September. Students who successfully are chosen for our MCS Basketball and Cricket teams will have their names added to the Term 4 data base by me. Any student who wants to continue the same sport as in Term 3 must reregister for that sport.

NSW CCC RUGBY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP
Following a very disappointing forfeit by St Dominic’s College, Penrith in the Quarter Final, our First Grade Rugby League team played All Saints College, Maitland in the Semi Final of the NSW CCC Schoolboys Championship at St Mary’s Stadium and were defeated 22-30 in a very well played game. Congratulations to Coach, Mr Newell, Assistant Coach, Mr Dixon, Manager, Ms Burke, Captain, Christian Kagiassis, and the team.

MCS AFL AND TOUCH
Going into the final round of the MCS AFL competition both the Open and 14 years teams are undefeated and have secured Semi Final positions. The Touch teams are progressing nicely in their divisions of competition with the 13 years team undefeated at this time.

Congratulations to those students who

Arthur Currie and Brett Russell (both Year 12) at the Sydney Roosters
headquarters recently pictured here with Assistant Coach, Jason Taylor (class of 1989), and Head Coach, Trent Robinson (class of 1994). Arthur has recently signed a two year deal with the Roosters beginning in 2014.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

SEMIESTER 1 ACADEMIC AWARDS
Congratulations to those students who received first place in course awards at our recent College assembly. Students who were placed second and third in course will receive their awards at Year group assemblies today. A full list of winners can be found on the College website.

STUDY SKILLS TIP FOR SEPTEMBER – Starting to Write an Assignment
1. CHECK REQUIREMENTS: You have done all of your research, collected the information you will need and are ready to start writing your assignment. Before you begin, revisit the requirements, format and criteria for the task. Be very clear on what the assignment is asking you to do and any guidelines you have been given for the assignment. If you are unsure at all, check with your teacher.

2. PLAN A STRUCTURE: Your approach will vary depending on the style of your assignment (eg. essay, speech, presentation or report) but regardless of this, unless it is explicitly given to you, you need to decide the structure of your assignment. Have you determined the main points, the headings and sub-headings? Have you made sure you have gathered information about all parts of the question? Have you found any diagrams, images, photos, quotes needed to reinforce any points? Before you begin the writing, create a structure for your work listing all of the headings and sub-headings you will write about. Keep checking back with the criteria or requirements to ensure you are answering the assignment questions.

3. JUST START WRITING: The best thing to do if you have no idea how to begin your writing, is to just start writing. Now this may sound a little strange, but many students do not start writing because they want what they write to be perfect or ‘right’ the first time. Don’t worry whether your writing is up to standard at this stage. Instead concentrate on getting your ideas down onto paper or screen. Choose a section and start putting down ideas on the sorts of things you could include in that section. The hardest part of any writing is starting. Once you start putting down ideas this generates other ideas and before you know it you have some text to work with. So even if you have no idea where to start just write or type ‘I don’t know what to include here’ and even writing this will get your subconscious thinking about what could be included!

4. USE YOUR NOTES: Once you have started, you can use your notes from the research you did to build your ideas and arguments for your assignment. This means that you integrate your own thoughts and ideas with the research you have done using this to help support your ideas. Make sure that you reference correctly, this means that when you use materials you have researched, particularly quotes, you make it clear where this material has been sourced from. You may find holes in your research as you progress and have to then do additional research about those areas.

5. BE CREATIVE: Unlike an essay, you generally have a bit more scope in how you present an assignment. Think about how you can bring the material to life for the reader. Photos (appropriately referenced) are a good start and sometimes diagrams, tables, examples, statistics or flowcharts may be appropriate. You might use lists, bullet points or colour to make the material more user-friendly. Your teacher will be reviewing many assignments on the same topic, so what can you do to make yours stand out or have a unique angle?

6. REVIEW AND REVIEW AGAIN: Have you ever had that experience where you write something, leave it, come back the next day and read it again and find a whole heap of errors you didn’t see the first time? This is why it is important to space out your work on your assignment over a number of weeks and days. You need time to edit your work and you need space between edits. When you come back with a fresh eye, you will be able to look at your work from a different perspective and get ideas on what you could do to improve your work. As you review your work, look for spelling and grammar errors, possible repetition or unclear areas. Reading your work out loud is surprisingly a great way of locating errors or things that don’t make sense.

You can learn more in the Research Skills unit on www.studyskillshandbook.com.au. Watch out for the new unit coming at the end of this year on Assignment Skills.

Our school’s subscription details to www.studyskillshandbook.com.au are -
Username: forstgregsonly
Password: 60results

Catherine Keegan,
Director of Teaching and Learning

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS AND AWARDS
Good Luck to Nathan Calman (Year 10) and Todd Biilmann (Year 12) who will be attending the National Championships in the next fortnight. Nathan in the sport of Diving and Todd in Snow Skiing.

Forthcoming Events

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<tr>
<td>8 Sept</td>
<td>NSW All Schools Rugby 7’s at Bellevue Hill</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Sept</td>
<td>MCS AFL (Semi Finals) and Touch</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Sept</td>
<td>NSW CCC Athletics at Homebush</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 Sept</td>
<td>MCS AFL and Touch (Grand Finals)</td>
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