Dear Members of the St Gregory’s Family,

I know that the word “Family” is mentioned a lot in the context of St Marcellin and the Brothers. It was very evident on the Friday at the 90th Celebrations that it is a word that is put into practice here at the College on a regular basis. I spoke about a community having a soul at the Dinner and this was very easy to see throughout the day and the evening of celebration.

The Mass on the Feast of St Gregory was obviously a bit different this year with the celebration of the 90 years of Marist Education in the Macarthur region and especially here at the College. Everyone who was involved in the organising of the Mass, should be very please with the outcome as it was a marvellous celebration. There was a good feeling throughout the day of celebration and it gave all members of the community the opportunity to see what the soul of the community looked and felt like. I am sure just from the comments I received throughout the day everyone walked away feeling very good about being part of the community.

The Celebration Dinner in the evening was a wonderful experience with the students demonstrating their musical talents along with the opportunity to renew friendships and build new ones. The painting that Danielle Mate Sullivan commissioned for the Art Show displayed the traditions, history and legacy of the College. It attracted a lot of interest as it is unique and it did capture what she set out to do.

The College acknowledged and congratulated the College Leaders for 2017 ably led by Jack Alcorn, the College Captain, Sean Mabin the College Vice Captain and Michael Calcutt, Marist Solidarity Leader along with the other 13 Leaders whose names are listed further over. I am sure that these young men will lead the College into 2017 in a very positive way.

Last week the College underwent the process of Registration through the Board of Studies. This process allows for schools to be given a certificate of operation for a further five years. The Inspector informed me that the College is compliant in all matters relating to the Board of Studies and he would be recommending that the College be registered to operate for the further five years. The Inspector did make comment about how impressed he was with the work of Mr Brennan and Mrs Veron on Policies and Procedures along with the work by Mrs Millar on Teacher Accreditation. There were a number of other positive comments which I will relate at the next Parent Forum along with a more detailed explanation of what the registration process has focused on this time, as it has changed since the last time the school underwent the process.

Congratulations to our Athletes and Mr Bullock on their recent success at the MCS Athletics Carnival. The College has now won the Athletic Championship for the last fifteen years in a row, an impressive record by anyone’s standards. It is also the second year in a row that the College has made a clean sweep of all shields. It is a credit to the talent of the students and their willingness to get involved and that is the reason the College is so successful.

The Year 12 Co-curricular Awards evening was held last Monday night. The major awards went to Allan McKenzie – Sportsman of the Year and Sam Hackett the All-Rounder of the Year. There were many other awards handed out which Mr Lantz will publish at a later date.

Quae Seminaveris Metes.

Damien Millar
Headmaster
Last Friday we celebrated the feast of St Gregory and 90 years of educating young men. I’d like to share some of my reflection given during this Mass:

The story of St Greg’s over 90 years has as its heroes many notable men and women. Each year at this Mass we sing the song of St Gregory. I can’t think of a better way to reflect on what we’re about.

I suppose we could say that St Gregory’s started way back with Thomas Donovan, a wealthy businessman who granted the land on which the College proudly stands. He dreamed of a Farm Home for boys from both the country and the city.

Maybe we need to rewind as far back as the 6th century, back to Gregory the Great who worked in Italy as a monk, an abbot and then Pope. It was under his patronage that the College began. St Gregory was a very learned man and a talented musician and we keep this in our tradition by being prayerful, enjoying academic pursuits and of course, enjoying and participating fully in the music of liturgy.

Fast forward to 1816 when a group of young men, including Marcellin Champagnat, dedicated themselves to establish a group of Marists, people dedicated to knowing Jesus through Mary. The legacy of St Gregory’s is the young men who have been educated here over the last 90 years who have become the fine adult men in our communities! Their motto: You will reap what you sow.

But there’s another hero, and we have to go right back to the beginning to Jesus born in a stable and dying on a cross. That is why we are here and why we have been here for 90 years and hopefully will continue – to come to know and love Jesus.

It was a proud moment when our current students stood and sang:

Saint Gregory’s, Saint Gregory’s
Quae Seminaveris Metes
Saint Gregory’s, Saint Gregory’s
strong minds, gentle hearts we seek
Stand together and defeat
as you sow so shall you reap, Saint Gregory

Cathie Clarke, Director of Mission

YEAR 11 PRELIMINARY EXAMS

Year 11 students commence their final Preliminary exams next Monday 12 September. A reminder that any absence from an exam must be covered by a medical certificate.

If a student is unable to sit for an exam due to illness, please phone Mr Newell (46294242) or Mrs Keegan (46294231) by 8am on the day of the exam.

It is important that all students give their best effort to each exam.

Discussions regarding patterns of study for Year 12 2017 will take place early next term. Students should not decide prior to these exams that they intend to drop a subject as this may not be possible.

Under the influence of Brother Felix and Brother Laurentius and the vision of Marcellin, St Greg’s became a College where fine young men of strong mind and gentle heart were nurtured.

Catherine Keegan, Director of Teaching and Learning

STUDY SKILLS FOR SEPTEMBER—
A MESSAGE TO YEAR 12 STUDENTS

These last few months of Year 12 can be overwhelming as the focus just seems to be on marks, marks, marks.

So here are some important things to remember:

Yes this year is important. And yes you want to get the best marks you can. BUT.

A very big but.

You as a person are not defined by a number alone.

Dr Prue Salter’s complete message to Year 12 is available at Teaching and Learning.

While Year 12 is busy studying, the rest of the school can learn more about how to achieve their personal academic best at school at www.studyskillshandbook.com.au by logging in with these details:

Username: forstgregsonly
Password: 60results

Catherine Keegan, Director of Teaching and Learning

“Don’t be anxious about what you have, but about who you are.”

Pope Gregory, The Great
Introducing our College Leaders for 2017

Congratulations to the following Year 11 students who have been elected College Leaders for 2017:

Jack Alcorn
College Captain / Boarding Leader

Sean Mabin
College Vice-Captain

Michael Calcutt
Marist Solidarity Leader

College Leaders:

Charlie Allen
Joshua Ashkar
Iain Carlisle
Vincent Hreszczuk
Rohan Indap
Christian Iriarte

Jack Kelly
Cort Langford
Daniel Lowe
Terrance Pizarro
Giordan Sprock
Samuel Villata
Isaac White

Year 7 News

On Friday 26 May the students of Year 7 enjoyed a combined Mass in the morning with Year 12 as a prelim to the upcoming Year 12 Graduation Mass on the last day of this term. It was a lovely celebration that was punctuated with many boys being involved in the readings and offering duties. That night saw a large attendance of fathers and significant males attend the annual Year 7 Trivia night “Boys and Blokes”. It was a very competitive night with 18 tables of energy charged males pitting their knowledge, engineering skills and aerodynamic prowess against each other. It was a most enjoyable night.

The St Gregory’s 90th celebration Mass was held on Friday 2 September. The wet start and enormous attendance of old boys and honoured guests certainly tested capacity of the hall and the involvement of the boys in the celebration, especially their singing was a credit to what they can achieve and the possible leadership skills they will take into the future of the College.

Lastly, a huge day was had by all after many false starts for the Champagnat day celebrations, which all of the Year 7 cohort participated in and thoroughly enjoyed.

At our next Year meeting I will be presenting blue merit (25 green stamps), white merit (50 green stamps) and maroon (75 green stamps) awards to the students.

Stephen Hartnett, Year 7 Coordinator
ST GREGORY’S COLLEGE SPORT REPORT
TERM 3 – WEEK 8

With the conclusion of the 2016 MCS One Day Championships in Swimming, Tennis, Cross Country, Golf and Athletics St Gregory’s has again had an exceptionally successful year with four Championships and a 2nd placing. While all wins are special the most momentous would be the success of the Swimming team winning after 12 years of second and third placings.

Detailed results of the MCS Athletics and Golf Championships are on the College website.

CCC SCHOOLBOY RUGBY LEAGUE & FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS
The First Grade Football team had a 3-2 loss in the CCC Open Semi Finals against Holy Spirit Bellambi. In a game of missed opportunities, the winning goal against our team came in the last minutes of play. A CCC Grand Final loss last year and a Semi Final loss this year, while disappointing, still highlights another excellent year for the team when only the winning MCS College proceeds in the CCC competition. With only two members of the Firsts graduating, Coach Mr Graham and the team are already looking forward to next year. Another excellent year to the team, Mr Graham, Assistant Coach Mr Clarke and Team Manager Mr O’Brien.

Our CCC Rugby League Semi Final game against Patrician Brothers Blacktown has again been postponed due to wet weather.

MCS AFL AND TOUCH COMPETITIONS
Wet weather and the MCS Athletics Championship has had these competitions waiting to recommence.

Joseph Lantz
Sports Coordinator

Other News

Big Science Competition
The Big Science Competition is an online quiz-style competition conducted by the Australian Science Innovations organisation. Students from enrichment classes for Science in Years 7-10 took part in this competition last term, with just under 50% being awarded either a Credit (57 students), Distinction (17 students) or High Distinction (4 students) award.
A special mention to the four students that achieved a High Distinction, ranking them in the top 2% of the candidature.

♦ Lachlan Saunders
♦ Harrison White
♦ Sanjiv Weerasingham
♦ James Hilton

Mr David Clarke
Science Coordinator

Marist Oratory Public Speaking Competition
Well done to our Marist Oratory Public Speaking team, comprising of Lachlan McInerney (Year 7), James Hilton (Year 8), Alessandro Comin (Year 9) Zak Hackett (Year 10), Sean Mabin (Year 11) and Sam Hackett (Year 12) on coming first in this competition which was held on Wednesday night at Marist North Shore.

Congratulations to Lachlan who placed 1st in Year 7; James who placed 4th in Year 8; Alessandro who placed 2nd in Year 9 and Sam who, in his final year, placed 1st in Year 12.

Maria Santos,
Debating/Public Speaking Coordinator