Headmaster’s News

Dear Members of the St Gregory’s Family,

Feast Days
Last Monday was the Feast of All Saints when we remember not only those people who have been canonised as saints but also the very ordinary people who go about their lives, living them to the best of their ability and have that one desire to be with Christ. These are the people we pray to and ask them to remember us and pray for us that we will join them one day also.

Last Tuesday was the Feast of All Souls’ Day a time when we remember and pray for those family and friends who are now deceased. It is a day when we are called upon to remember our family and friends and reiterate that they are part of our community alive or dead.

St Vincent de Paul Collection
As we move towards Christmas, the students have been encouraged to give generously towards the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. The boys give, in so many ways, of a personal nature such as time – Red Shield Appeal, St Vincent de Paul, Claymore Homework Club, Reiby and the list goes on. This collection is definitely a monetary one and it is a way of giving to others who we may never see but are in so much need of support at Christmas time.

Communication
The College has increased the methods of communication for hopefully easier access for parents. Last term at the Parent Forum, I introduced the parents to the Parent Portal which allows parents access to their sons’ attendance records, reports, timetables and daily notices. Recently the Facebook Page was launched and it is called the St Gregory’s College Authorised Page. The College also still retains the website where stories and letters are retained among other pieces of communication.

Building
I, along with Mr Shepherd, am meeting with Dartwest monthly to receive an update on the roadwork that is going on outside the College gates. The road will eventually be known as Gregory Hills Drive.

The Learning Centre is still looking at being ready for occupation in January and the furniture is booked to arrive at that time.

The new Canteen will be installed by the commencement of 2017 and it will be housed in the Donovan Centre. Alliance have issued a suggested canteen menu and price list which I will publish on the website.

Year 11 Reports
Year 11 received their reports which now concludes their Preliminary Year and, after the Retreat, they will commence their Year 12 studies in earnest with all assessments counting towards their HSC marks. The Reports have been a positive source of feedback for a large number of students and a wakeup call for a few others. I am sure with some positive goal setting and academic effort, the young men will reap the rewards of their efforts come 2017.

Cyber Safety and Social Media Parent Workshop
Mr Perna will be leading meetings for all parents on Wednesday 9 November commencing at 9am and 7.30pm in the Donovan Room. He, along with Miss Coupland and Mr Bullock, will discuss with parents the use of technology by their sons, stressing cyber safety and social media issues and how they can be dealt with.

Quae Seminaveris Metes.

Damien Millar
Headmaster
Mission

Participation in prayer is an important aspect of life at St Greg’s. We are known across the Diocese for our community singing and the young men of Greg’s never fail to step up as individual participants in Mass, Rosary, liturgies; even as leaders in classroom prayer. This aspect of Christian life is so important and has been particularly relevant for me this week in the busyness of facilitating a Training Camp for our new student leaders, preparing for Retreat and in the hosting of the Diocesan Training day for Ministers of Holy Communion.

As well as setting achievable goals for the year ahead, determining what they would like to do, the student leaders reflected on who they wanted to be. They explored their gifts, their abilities and their values to answer the question: what is it about Greg’s that we do not want to lose? They finished the two days of training in prayer, painting a rock as a strong symbol of the foundations of service leadership to which they aspire.

Last Wednesday we hosted the Diocesan Training day for Ministers of Holy Communion. At the end of this day the participants are able to minister Holy Communion at our College Masses and, with the commissioning of their Parish Priest, in their Parish Churches. It is encouraging that we have so many young men put up their hand to be involved in this important ministry – again reflecting our model of servant leadership in what they are prepared to do, but also a reflection of their faith and their willingness to evangelise others by being true to who they want to be. Congratulations to Harrison Brady, Mitchell Braithwaite, Mitchell Kelly, Aidan Limbrey, Tim Malone, Williefred Mataele, Aaron Rego, David Ryan, Jarryd Rolfe, Lachlan Saunders, Matthew Saunders and Ryan Toner.

As we go to print, we are finishing up Retreat Week, a most important time in developing the spirituality of our young men. I pray that the lessons of decision making, communication, forgiveness and community and their experiences of God and prayer will stay with them long after the week is over.

Cathie Clarke, Director of Mission

Teaching and Learning

Semester 2 Examinations Years 7-10

Semester 2 examinations for Year 10 commenced yesterday. A reminder that if a student is absent from an exam, they must have medical documentation to cover the period of absence.

Examinations for Years 7, 8 and 9 commence on Wednesday 16 November (Week 6). Timetables have been emailed to all families and copies are available on Skyblue, through Sentral and on the College website. Could I ask for your support in ensuring that your son is here to sit for his exams?

You can brush up on your exam techniques at www.studyskillshandbook.com.au by logging in with these details:
Username: forstgregsonly
Password: 60results

Study Skills information for November covers test taking techniques and can be found on our website at Teaching and Learning.

Catherine Keegan, Director of Teaching and Learning
Congratulations to the following Year 11 Major Award recipients:

- Sean Mabin: Year 11 Dux and UWS Academy Access Award for Most Outstanding Year 11 Student
- Derek Komban: Anthony Esler Award for the Outstanding Mathematics Student
- Rohan Indap: GIO Perpetual Award Trophy for Constancy and Effort in Academic Studies
- Lachlan O’Neill: Reuben F Scarf Award for Commitment
- Louis Amato: Br Paul Hough Award for Social Justice and Action
- Miguel Tamondong: Year 11 Service Award

Year 10 News

2016 has seen many of our Year 10 students mature throughout Semester 1. A large number of the students in Year 10 have been involved in numerous activities during the first half of the year 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 solid attitude and solid work ethics have been noted by many members of the College community.

As Term 3 concluded, Year 10 students were asked to find suitable Work Experience over the holidays and to start to consider their senior subject selections for 2017. 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 early this semester, coordinated by Mrs Keegan, to further clarify any concerns and questions parents might have. The evening was very successful with many parents attending.

At the end of Semester 1 the students have been exposed to a variety of talks by Coordinators of subject departments in preparation for next year. The College was able to support the students further by organising a ‘Careers Market’ afternoon in the hall. The ‘Careers Market’ was represented by trade schools, private Colleges, universities and law enforcement agencies. The afternoon was loaded with valuable information offered to those students seeking additional assistance in certain career paths. I would like to thank Mrs Dein for setting up the event.

Finally, I would like to remind parents and students of the Work Experience program starting in Week 8 and the Camp in Week 9. I also want to congratulate the many students who opted to take up the challenge of completing the community service program and a log card of their experiences. This card will be a stepping stone when students submit applications for leadership positions as seniors later this Term.

Baldino Vetrano,
Year 10 Coordinator
TERM 4 – WEEK 4

NSW CCC DOWNIE TROPHY
Our First XI Cricket team began their defence of the NSW CCC Downie Trophy with a nine wicket win against Corpus Christi, Oak Flats and several strong, individual performances.

MCS CRICKET COMPETITION
Another strong Round of competition by our Cricket teams resulted in six wins from six games with two teams having Byes and the 4ths receiving a forfeit from Parramatta. In Round 3 four of the five games were against ourselves and resulted in wins to the Firsts, Thirds, Fifths, Year 9 “A” and Year 7 “A”.

MCS BASKETBALL COMPETITION
The successful start to the MCS Basketball competition continued against St Paul’s Catholic College, Greystanes resulting in four wins and one loss.

ISA CRICKET COMPETITION
Coached by Mr Luke McGinnity, the First XI for the Weekend ISA competition have had an undefeated start with two wins from two games, the first against Oxley College and the second against Chevalier College.

Joseph Lantz, Sports Coordinator

The full Sports report with scores and individual results is in the News section of the College website.

Other News

Dear Parents,

The Years 7 and 8 Co-Curricular evening with be held on Monday 7 November 2016. The evening will commence at 7.30pm in the Br Luke Hall and all students who have participated in a Co-Curricular event during the year are expected to attend in full summer uniform.

We ask parents and students to log into Sentral to check activities to ensure information for each student is correct.

A letter has been sent to all parents of students in Years 7 and 8. If you have not received a letter or the Co-curricular information for your son is missing/incorrect, please contact Carmela Veron on 46294125.

Regards,

Matthew Brennan
Deputy Headmaster

Corriedale Student Education Day – Taralga

On 18 October, 12 St Greg’s students joined students from Lithgow High School, All Saints’ College Bathurst and Braidwood Central School at the annual Corriedale Student Education Day at the Taralga showground. The day was organised by the NSW Branch of the Australian Corriedale Association, and consisted of practical workshops on all things sheep and wool.

Details of the workshops and photos can be found on our website at Corriedale.

Upper Hunter Beef Bonanza

The Hunter Valley town of Scone was the venue for one of the biggest steer shows in Australia. Almost 800 students from all over NSW arrived at the Showground with close to 300 animals to compete in a range of events including junior judging, parading, carcass judging and live animal assessments. This proved to be another successful Show for St Greg’s students.

The full report with results and photos can be found on our website at Upper Hunter.