Headmaster’s News

Dear Members of the St Gregory’s Family,

In the Book of Proverbs, it talks to us about a woman who moves amongst us. It says, “She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy”. This is a very timely reminder about looking out for others. In a world where there are so many things happening in a negative sense, such as the situation in the Middle East, the situation in Africa with school girls being kidnapped, the spread of Ebola, closer to home we read about domestic violence on the front pages of our newspapers, people suffering from a variety of health problems and people losing their homes due to the financial crisis to name a few examples. To look for the positive in life is a challenge as it is much easier to look for the negatives. Christ calls on all of us to be agents of change. We all have an obligation to be the positive influence in the world. How often do we stand up and challenge when we hear people spreading gossip about someone? How often do we step in when we can read the signs and see that people are going to come to blows? Do we take the track of ‘it is not my problem’ and turn away? We can all be life-givers and help to make the world a more positive environment if we just step out of our comfort zone and take action.

I commend to you the Christmas Collection for St Vincent de Paul. This is something that the boys and families do so well at the College and it makes a large number of people have a more positive outlook on life. There are so many things that we can all do individually to help make the world a better place. Words are one thing but the first action towards making the world a better place is what is going to make the difference.

Years 7 and 8 Co-Curricular Evening
Thank you to the parents and friends who supported the recent Co-curricular Night for Years 7 and 8 which was held at Wests Leagues Club two weeks ago. Thank you to Wests for allowing us to use the Club facilities because without their support, we could not have held the evening, which would have been a shame in light of the number of smiling faces I saw standing in front of me with certificates. I think, as one mother pointed out to me, it is all about the acknowledgement of the participation. To see her son coming away feeling more confident and proud than when he went in, made the effort to attend worthwhile. Congratulations to the Year 8 Sportsman of the Year - Jacob Sykes and the Year 7 Sportsman of the Year - Cameron Lawrence. Congratulations to the Zak Hackett (Year 8) and Marcus Bombardiere (Year 7) for being awarded the All Rounder Award for their respective Year group. Thank you to Mr Lantz for organising the evening and thank you to all the staff who supported the evening through their attendance.

Loins Youth of the Year
Congratulations to Jack McNally as he won the recent Lions Youth of the Year Contest for Campbelltown. He now moves on to the regional contest. Thank you to Mrs Santos for her presence and support of Jack.

Year 7 Twilight Dance
This was held on Wednesday evening. The College hosted the dance for the Year 7s with the young ladies from St Patrick’s. Thank you to the young men from Year 10 who were present to support the evening. Thank you also to the parents who gave of their time to help out with the evening.

Parent Forum
The final Parent Forum for the year will be held next Monday at 9am and 7.30pm in the Donovan Centre.

Looking ahead
The Year 7 – 10 students will be embarking on their final exams commencing next week. The following few weeks will see Year 10 embarking on their Work Experience Program and their round of camps/excursions. The Academic Assembly for Years 7 – 10 will be held at the Catholic Club on Wednesday evening 10 December over two sessions. More details to follow regarding the last week of school.

Quae Seminaveris Metes.

Damien Millar
Headmaster
Mission

Week 4 of Term 4 is always a special week at Greg’s as it is the week of Year 12 Retreat and Insight. This is an important part of each student’s personal, spiritual and social development and provides an opportunity for staff and students to take some time away from the everyday school environment to reflect on their lives. It is a unique opportunity for students to be honest and open with themselves and their peers and an opportunity for us to challenge our students about their faith development. Each retreat is different depending on the where the students are at in their lives at that particular moment in time. This year’s experience was exceptional. I’d like to share some comments from our students’ evaluations:

Retreat
◆ One of the best experiences I’ve ever had
◆ Great impact on my life
◆ I am more confident in sharing
◆ I see things now from a new perspective
◆ It was great to meet new people and see their strengths
◆ The community feeling was incredible

◆ I will think more about my faith
◆ Broke out of my comfort zone
◆ I think I can be a better man
◆ Mass was amazing
◆ 3 days just isn’t enough!

Insight
◆ Opened my eyes
◆ Made me see how I can help by just being a presence
◆ The influence of the people I worked with was enormous

The outcomes of a Retreat cannot ever be accurately measured, however I hope that many of our families have had the opportunity to talk with the boys as they reflected on their experiences and to read their affirmations. From our perspective, this group of Year 12 students are well on the way to becoming fine young men.

Cathie Clarke,
Director of Mission/RE Coordinator

Teaching and Learning

Prior to Retreat, the College held the Academic Award Ceremony and morning tea for our Year 11 students. Those who were placed first in course were acknowledged with a College medallion and certificate while those who were placed second and third received a certificate.

Academic effort was acknowledged through the Headmaster’s awards for Effort and Consistency while the College also honoured the academic achievements of the top ten students in the year.

Congratulations to the Year 11 Dux and the University of Western Sydney Most Outstanding Student, Jack McNally.

The College also acknowledged student involvement across the board with the presentation of the major College awards for Year 11.

A full list of winners can be found in the News section of the College website.

Catherine Keegan,
Director of Teaching and Learning
Student Profiles

Congratulations to Cameron Lawrence, Jacob Sykes, Lachlan Dean on their successes as shown below:

Cameron Lawrence, Year 7
Year 7 Sportsman of the Year
Co-curricular Award

Jacob Sykes, Year 8
Year 8 Sportsman of the Year
Co-curricular Award

Zak Hackett, Year 8
Year 8 All Rounder
Co-curricular Award

Marcus Bombardiere, Year 7
Year 7 All Rounder
Co-curricular Award

Lachlan Dean, Year 7
U14 NSW Baseball Team for the Dingo World Series in Queensland (January 2015)

Year 11 News

Term 4 has certainly been a busy one for the students of Year 11. Having completed their Preliminary HSC at the end of the previous term, the boys have had to quickly adapt to altered patterns of study in order to tackle their HSC journey from the start.

After the initial three week period, the boys were separated into two groups and spent a wonderful week at either retreat or on the Insight program. “The Hermitage”, which is the Marist Brothers’ property at Mittagong was the host site for our retreat. In all, 85 boys attended each of the two retreats. Each retreat was unique, however, every young man and staff member present were given the opportunity to involve themselves as much as they wanted. Obviously, the greater the involvement, the more they took away with them. Many thanks firstly to the boys as they made the retreat what it was. To the staff who either stayed all week or for one of the two retreats, I know the boys appreciated every sacrifice you made. Special mention must go to Mrs Clarke and Miss Khoury, who planned and ran these wonderful events.

Insight encouraged the boys to ‘step outside’ their comfort zones and experience, to some degree, the lives that many disadvantaged individuals experience daily. Boys spent one or two days at places like Schools for children with special needs or Aged Care facilities. Some boys found this confronting, but are better and more tolerant individuals for having had this opportunity. Many thanks to Mr Wilson for facilitating this program from here at the College. A special mention to Mrs Walsh, who spent an unbelievable number of hours to find an Insight placement for all of the 172 boys in Year 11.

The emphasis is now on finishing this year well and setting a solid platform that will hold these boys in good stead into the new year.

Patrick Newell, Year 11 Coordinator

Photos from Year 11 Retreat can be found in Galleries
Following are reminders for students regarding Thursday Sport:

1. **Medical** – If you are unable to participate because of an illness or injury please bring a note from parents for non-participation and go to the Sport Detention Room 412 where you can study, do homework and/or read. If unwell at the College, see the Nurse at Student Services for a note.

2. **Money** – If you do not have your money for your Elective Sport, go to the Detention Room and not the sporting activity. You cannot say you will pay next week or attend as a non-participant.

3. **Participation and Behaviour towards teachers and your fellow students** must always be of the highest quality.

4. **Mobile Phones** are not allowed to be out and used at any time during sport except in special circumstances with a teacher’s permission.

5. **Changing Sporting activities** – No student can change their Thursday sport without Mr Lantz’s permission. It is the College’s Duty of Care to know where you are at all times during Thursday sport.

**Bus Departures** – If your sport activity is off campus please go to the Bus area immediately at the beginning of lunch and be attentive to announcements for departing buses. There have been several students in the last few weeks who have missed their buses by arriving late for a variety of reasons.

Please see Mr Lantz with any questions or if you would like to make any changes with his permission.

**MCS BASKETBALL AND CRICKET**

Our teams continued to do well in Weeks 4 and 5. A full report on these results can be found in the News section of the College website.

**ISA COMPETITION**

St Gregory’s won 4 of the 5 ISA Basketball games against St Andrew’s Cathedral School with Lachlan Anderson scoring 22 points in the First’s convincing win. In Cricket, the Boarders’ First XI defeated Central Coast Grammar with Vince Ryan taking 5 wickets and Justin Stewart taking 4 wickets and scoring 43no.

**Joseph Lantz, Sports Coordinator**

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**Other News**

**St Gregory’s College Sheep and Fleece Judging Day**

On November 3 the College played host to the South Coast and Southern Highlands Sheep and Fleece Judging Day. There were 86 competitors from 6 schools. This was yet another successful show for the boys of the College. Daniel Brennan and Geordie Taylor (Year 7) achieved equal first in the Merino Fleece Judging Junior class. Jack Finch (Year 11) achieved second in the Meat and Dual Purpose Sheep Breeds Judging class. Jack will represent the region in the State final at next year’s Sydney Royal Sheep and Fleece Show.

**‘Roselea’ Corriedale Day**

On October 14 the College Show team travelled to ‘Roselea’ Corriedale Stud in Rydal for the annual NSW Corriedale Association Day. The students were given hands-on seminars on sheep and fleece judging, sheep nutrition, health and welfare. It was a very educational day which was enjoyed by all.

**Edward Stefanski, Agriculture Teacher**

Photos from these events can be viewed in Galleries.

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**Canteen News**

We still need helpers in the canteen for the rest of the year, particularly Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

If you are able to assist, please contact me by phoning 4629 4201 or by emailing lynnette.bristow@stgregs.nsw.edu.au.

**Lyn Bristow, Canteen Supervisor**

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**Book Hire**

As Year 11s have now completed their Preliminary course, any textbooks no longer required should be returned as soon as possible to avoid those books being charged to your account.

**Nada Simich, Book Hire Supervisor**

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**Sports Events**

**MCS Basketball and Cricket continue every Thursday**

- **17 November**: Semi Final NSW All Schools Cup (Cricket)
- **25 November**: Grand Final NSW All Schools Cup (Cricket)
- **9-16 December**: Marist Cricket Carnival at Warragul, Victoria