Dear Members of the St Gregory’s Family,

I was recently reading the story of the Widow’s Mite in Luke’s Gospel. This is the story about the widow who donated what little money she had to the treasury. Other people, the rich people, gave money that they had left over. Christ makes the point that she gave more than any of the others as she had so little to give in the first place.

If you have been watching the television lately you would have seen the tragedy and devastation that has affected the Philippines. The loss of lives I am sure will continue to mount as the days go on. The officials have a difficult task in trying to help people who have lost everything and it is compounded by the sheer size of the disaster. It is dreadful to look at the faces of the people who have a look of hopefulness as they sit in the middle of the wreckage that surrounds them.

We have seen various agencies (Caritas, World Vision etc.) asking for donations so that a salvage operation can be undertaken to help these people survive this dreadful tragedy. It made me think of the Widow who was prepared to give what little she had while others gave their throwaway coins. We all have at least one coin and there are others who have many more but imagine what the total would be if just every person was accounted for with a one dollar coin from Australia, it would be many millions. When I look at the pictures, I wonder is this too much to ask for.

I am sure that we are all keeping the people in the Philippines in our thoughts and prayers.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Mr Brennan on his appointment as the Deputy Headmaster commencing in January 2014. This weekend the College will be advertising for a new Director of Boarding.

Co-Curricular Awards

The Year 7 – 9 Co-curricular Awards were held last week with approximately three hundred students being presented from across the Year groups. It was pleasing to see that so many students have taken the option of developing their talents outside the classroom in a wide variety of activities. Our two guests for the evening Damien Mortimer (2012), the Australian U/19 Cricket Captain, and Mitch Mellia from Sydney FC were a great addition to the evening as they both had interesting stories to tell.

Today the College held the Years 11 and 10 Co-curricular Awards Assembly with our special guest being Daniel Geale, IBF World Middleweight Champion Boxer and Olympic gold medallist.

Marshall Roger’s Scholarship

I attended a luncheon at the Camden Lakeside Golf Course on Wednesday when Joseph Tildsley (Year 11) was acknowledged as the recipient of the Marshall Rogers scholarship for 2014. Ben Rogers is an ex-student of the College and has set up the Foundation so that he can give back to the College. I am sure that the scholarship winners over the last few years have appreciated the help that they have been given.

The Pope seeks feedback on Family Life

Bishop Peter has asked me to inform you that Pope Francis has called an Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops for October 2014. The theme of the Synod will be: Pastoral Challenges to the Family in the context of Evangelisation. I will email out to you a letter from the Bishop which explains this in more detail along with the Preparatory Document that will be needed for the survey.

Parent Forum

The last Parent Forum for the year will be held on Monday in the Donovan Centre. It will be a vertical Forum across the Years from Year 7 to Year 11. It will give me the opportunity to inform parents of plans for 2014 on a number of issues.

As the year draws to a close, it is important that the students remain focussed especially with the prospect of the final exams being upon them.

Quae Seminaveris Metes.

Damien Millar
Headmaster
**Important Dates**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 18—Tuesday 26 November 2013</td>
<td>Years 7—10 Exams</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 18 November 2013</td>
<td>Years 7—11 Parent Forums Commencing at 9.00am and 7.30pm in the Donovan Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 23 November 2013</td>
<td>Uniform shop open 12.30pm-4.00pm by appointment only for Boarders’ Orientation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 24 November 2013</td>
<td>Uniform shop open 10.00am-4.00pm by appointment only</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 25 November 2013</td>
<td>AMEB Instrumental Examinations</td>
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<td>Tuesday 26 November—Wednesday 4 December 2013</td>
<td>Year 10 Tasmania Hike</td>
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<td>Wednesday 27 November 2013</td>
<td>Art Attack 2013 From 7.00pm until 9.00pm in the Donovan Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 28 November 2013</td>
<td>Headmaster’s Thank You Evening</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 29 November 2013</td>
<td>Year 7—10 Junior Dance From 7.30pm until 10.30pm at St Patrick’s College</td>
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<td>Monday 2—Thursday 5 December 2013</td>
<td>Year 10 Work Experience</td>
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<td>Monday 9—Wednesday 11 December 2013</td>
<td>Year 10 Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 11 December 2013</td>
<td>Year 7-10 Awards Evening Years 7 and 8 6.00pm-7.30pm; Years 9 and 10 8.00pm-9.30pm in the Br Luke Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 12 December 2013</td>
<td>Christmas Mass Commencing at 9am in the Br Luke Hall All families and friends of the College are welcome to attend Term 4 concludes</td>
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**From the Deputy Headmaster ……**

**Being a Good Sport**

Following on from what I wrote about good sportsmanship in the last newsletter, I spoke to the boys at Assembly regarding an incident that happened in the First Grade Cricket game v Eastwood last Thursday. The umpire collapsed, due to the excessive heat we suspect, and we called an Ambulance to assist. The game was declared a draw due to Eastwood needing to travel a distance home. Even though we had a very good chance of winning the game with seven wickets in hand not one boy in either team objected to the draw. This is worth noting due to the signals our society sends regarding win at all cost attitudes. I would also like to thank the parents who came to the Umpire’s aid.

We have tried to contact the Umpire but have been unsuccessful at this stage.

**Excellent behaviour of our students**

Thank you to the Year 10 Big Brothers and our two Year 12 Student Leaders assigned to Year 7 for 2014 (Jacob Mitchell and Cameron Menzies) who assisted in the Year 7 2014 Orientation Day last Friday. The boys demonstrated initiative, enthusiasm and a willingness to support boys who may have not known anyone or were looking a bit overawed by the occasion. I have attached an email from Mrs Maree Wright which sums up the impact the boys had on those who witnessed their positive behaviour.

Mr Kennaugh,

I would like to pass my thanks today to the boys who were helping out with the Year 7 Orientation. These boys were a credit to the school and with all their help and willingness to work it made serving 220 people a seamless operation. They were very polite willing and able to assist in any way required.

They were also very caring and considerate towards all the new Year 7 boys making sure they received their meal and that they felt comfortable in the strange environment.

Maree Wright, Catering Manager

Mr Stephen Kennaugh, Deputy Headmaster

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**From the Music faculty**

On Thursday 31 October at 12.30pm over a million people all over Australia were involved in Australia’s biggest school initiative, *Music: Count Us In*. The aim of the day is to celebrate the value of music education to students’ development, whoever they are, wherever they are. A group of boys from the College choir and band had the opportunity to be a part of this great event, which saw us travel to St Thomas More Primary School and perform the song “Keep On” with St Pat’s College, Bradbury Public School, St Thomas More Primary School and a local group, the “Daytones”. We thoroughly enjoyed the day and wish to thank Mrs Samyia from St Pat’s for organising the whole event.

Justin Phan and Lachlan Doherty (Year 10)
Year 11 officially became Year 12 2014 last week as their academic subjects became those they would carry into their HSC. The first three weeks of Term 4 have been a busy time for Year 11s as they formally stepped up as the senior class in the College and the new leaders began to take on various responsibilities.

The Academic Assembly on Friday 25 October paid tribute to those students who had worked consistently and well throughout the Preliminary Year, as well as recognising those students who had gained a first, second or third place in each subject. At the same time special awards were presented in Service, Social Justice and Action areas.

In the evening of the same day, the College uniform was swapped for smart attire as the Year 11s attended the Senior Dinner Dance in the Donovan Centre. This social activity, a forerunner to the Year 12 Formal, provided the seniors and their partners the opportunity to share a meal in a social setting and then ‘dance the night away’ afterwards. The generosity and support from the St Greg’s parents meant that costs could be kept to a minimum.

Week 4: 28 October to 1 November saw the Year group take part in the Senior Retreat and the Insight Programme. This most special week challenged the students on many individual, community, social and spiritual levels and I feel became a time when this Year group of young men grew in awareness and support of each other. There was trust and communication and growth from so many that it was indeed a privilege to have been part of this experience.

To the staff that were involved in the many aspects of organisation and administration, on behalf of all Year 11s I would like to say thank you for your generosity, time and wisdom.

We began Week 5 as officially the HSC Class of 2014, ready to accept the challenges that lie ahead.

Mrs Sue Dein, Year 11 Coordinator

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

In Term 3 last year our 2012 College Vice-Captain, Jonathan Pacchiarotta was notified by the State Award Committee that he had been successful in satisfying the requirements for his Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. Such is the nature of such an achievement, that Jonathan, together with his family and other Gold awardees and their families, was invited to a reception at Government House in Sydney to be presented with his Award by the Governor of NSW, Dr Marie Bashir.

Achieving an Award at any of the three levels requires perseverance and commitment over a period of time, in Jonathan’s case 12 months for each of the sections Skill, Volunteering and Physical Recreation, together with two 5-day hikes and an additional Residential Project.

Mr Graeme Cook was involved in all of Jonathan’s hikes, from Bronze Level through to Gold, acting as mentor and assessor and sharing his vast expertise in planning and then undertaking the hikes. Graeme was able to represent the College and be present at the Award Ceremony to share in Jonathan’s achievement.

Greg Serone, Coordinator
MCS BASKETBALL AND CRICKET

During Week 4 a great round of MCS Basketball had St Gregory’s with 4 wins and a draw against the strong Marist College, Parramatta teams. Highlights were from First Grade – Lachlan Anderson 12 points, Open Year 10 – a one point win led by Allan McKenzie 12 points, Open Year 9 – Luke Peoples 13 points and Jack Carter 10 points and Open Year 9 Zac Anderson 16 points and Tim Villaverde 10 points.

In the MCS Cricket competition St Gregory’s played 7 games and won 7 games. The great start to the Cricket season continues. Highlights were from First Grade – Joshua Institoris 39no, Second Grade Luke Hughes 39no and James Walgers 5-16, Fourth Grade – Harry Wighton 3-7, Year 9 “A” – Steele Brown 68no and Nicholas Mortimer 13-14, Year 9 “B” – Daniel Hodson 4-9 and Sam Smillie 28no, Year 7 “A” – Cameron Middleton 68 and Liam Marshall 3-3 and Year 7 “B” – Joshua Gallagher 2-2 and 19no.

Week 5 of the MCS Basketball competition had the St Gregory’s teams continue their good start with 4 wins from 5 games against Eastwood. The First Grade team’s win was highlighted by 15 points to Lachlan Anderson; Year 10 Opens with 9 points to Napota Simaika; Year 9 Opens with 14 points to Jack Carter and Year 8 Opens with 10 points Zac Anderson.

The Firsts, Seconds, Year 9 “A” and Year 7 “A” Cricket teams played Eastwood, the Thirds played Blacktown, the Fourths had a BYE and the Year 9 and 7 “B” teams played Dundas. The First Grade game was abandoned due to an ill Umpire. There were wins to all other teams except the Year 7 “A” team who had their first defeat of the year.

Highlights from these games include First Grade – Jonah Price 4-6, Second Grade – opening partnership of 117no with Luke Johnson 62no and Hamish Brill 46no, Third Grade – Zac Bedingfield 5-0 with 5 consecutive outs in one over and Wicket Keeper, Joshua Colaguiri, with 4 stumpings and 1 catch, Year 9 “A” – Nick Mortimer 49, Year 9 “B” – Sam Buckley 60no, Year 7 “A” – Cameron Middleton 3-13 and Year 7 “B” – Cameron Williams 60no.

ISA BASKETBALL AND CRICKET

On Saturday, in the ISA Basketball competition against Redfield, St Gregory’s played hard but unfortunately all teams were defeated. Success came on the second day of the Cricket game against Campbeltown RSL. Chasing RSL’s 8-135 the team led by Luke Johnson 44no passed their total 9-137 to win the game. Luke was supported by Vince Ryan 32 and Harry Douglass 14.

Last Wednesday in the ISA Basketball competition the Under 15 years, Under 17 and Open teams had wins with the 17’s having their first win and the 13 years team losing by 2 points.

Joseph Lantz, Sports Coordinator

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<td>3-10 Dec</td>
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Parishes Working Together – Where are we now and where are we going?

In October, many copies of the Parishes Working Together booklet were circulated to our parishes and our schools. This booklet provides a wealth of information to assist our parishes and our schools in our planning for the future. We all want strong vibrant communities to support us in times of joy and sorrow. For years our faith communities have stood alongside us through births, weddings, funerals, assisting when times are tough and sustaining our faith through Mass and the Sacraments. Because Bishop Peter recognises we are all vital members of our Diocese, he wants us to be aware of what is being planned and how it may impact on us. Many people in our parishes and schools have already been consulted and their feedback had shaped this report. We are asked to read the Summary Report and then keep it in a safe place. It will be a valuable resource during the next year as our parishes and schools begin working together to plan for the future. The Summary report is available by clicking on the following link:


We keep the Parishes Working flipbooks Together process in our prayers, so that together we may do our best in serving Jesus’s mission to serve the world in justice and love. The full report, which has much additional information, can be accessed on:


Canteen Helpers

Families and friends of the College are invited to help in the Canteen during 2014. Even if you are only able to help one day a term or one day a year you are most welcome to do so by emailing me on the email address below.

Also, if you are currently a helper in the Canteen and are unable to assist during 2014 or you wish to change your day or the frequency you work, please contact me on the email below.

Lynette.bristow@stgregs.nsw.edu.au

Mrs Lyn Bristow, Canteen Manager

Have you changed address, contact numbers or any other details?

A link is available on our website to a form which can be used for updating Family and/or Medical information. This form can be accessed via the CURRENT FAMILIES tab. Alternatively, the information can be emailed to the College Registrar: kate.stott@stgregs.nsw.edu.au