Headmaster’s News

Dear Members of the St Gregory’s Family,

Season of Advent
This is the time of year when we see the Christmas decorations going up and people start thinking about Christmas especially from a commercial point of view. As Christians we know that there is much more to this time of year, as we are now moving into the season of Advent. Advent is a time when we prepare for the coming of the Lord. It is a time when we examine our relationship with our God and reflect on what state that relationship is in. It is a time when we should be looking at our prayer life as that is one way that we continue to develop our relationship with Christ. We know that by watering the plants and fertilising them, they will grow and develop and the same is true of our relationship with Christ. It is very easy just to continue with our daily lives and not take the time to reflect due to the pressures that we have to deal with on a daily basis. We should stop occasionally and put everything aside and take the time to reflect. Taking the time to reflect can be a challenge today as we are not used to the quiet time, due to our obsession with the technology that we are surrounded by. Take the time and it might be surprising how relaxing and beneficial it is.

Cyber Safety Parent Workshop
Thank you to those parents who were able to attend the Cyber Safety Parent Workshop. I would hope that it gave the parents in attendance a look into what their children are or could be doing with technology these days. It was a very good presentation by Mr Perna, Miss Coupland and Mr Bullock and hopefully it was informative and gave parents some knowledge that will allow conversations about cyber safety with their sons to go forward.

Junior School Information Sessions
On Tuesday, the College held its first information session for parents who wish to enrol their children in the Junior School for 2018. It gave the College the opportunity to present what had been done so far in preparation for the opening of the Junior School in 2018. It also gave parents an opportunity to ask questions about the development and what they were looking for in the way of education for their sons and daughters. The website and the College Facebook page will be used to keep the conversation going about the development of the Junior School.

Co-curricular Activities
Recently the Year 7/8 Co-curricular Evening was held and the students were acknowledged for their efforts. Shaun Spence (2009) spoke to the students about his journey and what life lessons he had learnt along the way. The feedback that we received through the survey was very positive about Shaun’s story.

The Mock Trial Team went into action against Liverpool Girls High School yesterday in the Semi-final of this competition. The team under the tutelage of Mr Bullock, has done exceptionally well to get this far as the competition is very fierce and of such a high standard that a decision either way will always be very close. After winning this Semi-final the team now progresses to the Grand Final on 1 December. A great effort!

The All Schools Cricket Competition was finalised last Tuesday. The team has performed very well this year under the direction of Mr Jamieson, to have won the Marist Carnival in Melbourne at the start of the year, the MCS Competition, the Downie Shield and now to reach the finals of the All Schools is a credit and tribute to the talent and dedication of the team. The team has had different boys in and out of the team continually due to injury and other commitments which only goes to show the depth of talent that is available at the College.

Quae Seminaveris Metes.

Damien Millar
Headmaster
Last newsletter I recognised the importance of the role of Ministers of Holy Communion. During this week I found an article which reflected on this ministry, particularly the ‘social dimension of the Eucharist’. St Paul wrote that we are all part of the Body of Christ, so when we receive Eucharist we receive not only Christ, but the whole Body. This contemporary theology suggests that the rituals associated with Eucharist were pointless unless they led to a greater communion with others – or a sense of service in community. Our Year 11s recently completed their two days of Insight as part of their Retreat Week. This was an opportunity for them to join in communion with others and their responses (a selection below) show that they were very open to this process and gained much from the experience:

- It definitely gave me a whole new perspective on how hard education can be for some kids, as well as an insight into what being a Special Ed teacher is like.
- Seeing all the kids’ smiles. They were so happy. Even just reading a book was amazing for them.
- This was two days I will never forget at all.
- Gaining an understanding and an empathy for those with disabilities.
- It was a humbling and enlightening experience.
- It was an amazing experience. You have a very special place in my heart and although I’ve only known you for a such a short time, you’ve made lasting impressions that will stay with me for a lifetime.
- Staff were really nice and obviously care about the residents. Removed some preconceived ideas about aged care.
- Opens your eyes to the fact that there are people significantly less fortunate than us.
- Satisfaction of helping others.
- That I got to make someone happy by giving them a meal and just talking to them.
- All the people were lovely and I can say I have made some new old friends.

2017 Immersion
A reminder to Year 10 parents that if your son is interested in applying to participate in an immersion experience in 2017, either to the Solomon Islands or Fiji, expressions of interest are due by December 9 this year.

Cathie Clarke, Director of Mission

Year 9 News

‘Own Your Future’

As the school year draws to a close and Year 9 students are engaged in Yearly examinations, it seems an opportune time to reflect on our 2016 theme—‘Own Your Future’.

The Year 9 Pastoral Care team have made a conscious effort this year to emphasise and highlight areas such as maturity, responsibility, decision making and goal setting. I would encourage all parents and carers to discuss short and long term goals with your son. Please acknowledge achievements and success whilst considering pathways toward improvement and further growth.

It is pleasing to witness the vast majority of the cohort accept challenges and display a willingness to be responsible for their own actions and decisions.

St Gregory’s College provides numerous opportunities for students as they move toward being fine young men. It is our hope they understand that the future holds immense promise and hope while ever they are prepared to ‘own their own future’.

Peter Hogan, Year 9 Coordinator
Congratulations to the following students for their achievements as shown:

Connor Doherty
Year 11
Certificate of Merit for High Academic Achievement from The Open High School

Lachlan McInerney
Year 7
All Rounder of the Year

Zachary Maxwell
Year 7
Sportsman of the Year

Anthony Robinson
Year 8
All Rounder of the Year

Cody Salter
Year 8
Sportsman of the Year

Applications for the 2018 International Tour to the UK and France will open soon.

Each tour is distinctively different and the 2018 tour will begin in Great Britain; from the construction of the Neolithic Stone Henge through to the Modern day. We will explore British History and its impact on the world; including the Roman era, the Magna Carta, the great schools of thought at Oxford and the ideas that fuelled the great explorations and colonisations of Empire. The tour concludes with a look at the beginning of the end of that Empire on the Battlefields of France in 1918. There will be a focus on some of Britain’s greatest military minds such as Lord Horatio Nelson and Winston Churchill, her most infamous Kings such as King John and Henry VIII, some of her dark history including the Black Death and Jack the Ripper, and explore the history of some of the greatest literary minds in history such as Chaucer, Shakespeare, Dickens, Austen and, for our Harry Potter fans, J.K Rowling. There is a nod to the creative with a show on the West End, tours of the Globe in London and the Royal Shakespeare Company in Avon and visits to the shooting locations of many favourite Harry Potter moments.

In the final year of the centenary of the Great War, the tour will conclude in France in order to commemorate the sacrifice made by our young men one hundred years ago. No one who ever travels to the Western Front remains the same; it is truly life changing.

The 2018 tour is promising to be quite a remarkable and unique one and will cater to many different interests; covering curriculum areas in History (7-10), International Studies, Modern History, English (7-10), Standard, Advanced and Extension English. The tour is initially open to boys who will be in Year 9 in 2018; and the tour cost will include all flights, accommodation, tours, workshops and meals. It is expected the tour will cost in the vicinity of $6500 to $7000. The itinerary is currently being costed and finalised.

Any early stage enquiries and expressions of interest may be made via email to megan.murdoch@stgregs.nsw.edu.au.

Megan Murdoch, KLA Coordinator: History
TERM 4 – WEEK 6

MCS BASKETBALL COMPETITION
Round 4 of the MCS Basketball Competition was against Marist College, Eastwood. We had 2 wins (Firsts 66-23; Year 7 28-10) and 3 losses (Seconds 35-45; Year 9 16-19; Year 8 23-32).

An undefeated Round 5 of games in both the Basketball and Cricket continued the good first half of the MCS competitions. The winning scores against Dundas were Firsts 55-37, Seconds 46-8, Year 9 37-28, Year 8 50-7 and Year 7 24-21.

MCS CRICKET COMPETITION
Round 4 of the MCS Cricket Competition resulted in 7 wins from 9 games. The Firsts defeated Eastwood by 3 runs; the Seconds lost to Blacktown by 9 wickets; Thirds defeated Eastwood by 67 runs; Fourths lost to St Greg’s Fifths by 61 runs; Fifths defeated St Greg’s Fourths by 61 runs; Year 9 “A” defeated Eastwood by 130 runs; Year 9 “B” defeated Blacktown by 8 runs; Year 7 “A” defeated Eastwood by 4 runs and Year 7 “B” defeated Blacktown by 5 runs.

Eight games were played in Round 5 with 8 wins. The Firsts defeated Dundas by 10 wickets; Seconds defeated Schofields by 8 wickets; Thirds defeated Blacktown #3 by 9; Fourths defeated Blacktown #2 by 3 wickets; Year 9 “A” defeated Dundas by 167 runs; Year 9 “B” defeated Schofields by 31 runs; Year 7 “A” defeated Dundas by 87 runs and Year 7 “B” defeated Schofields by 9 wickets.

ISA CRICKET COMPETITION
The ISA Basketball season started against Redlands with 3 wins (Firsts 78-53, U15 58-32, U13 32-31) and 2 losses (U17 22-35, U14 28-32). The Cricket team continues its undefeated start to the season with an excellent 3 wicket win against Oakhill College (St Greg’s 7-138, Oakhill 10-135).

Joseph Lantz, Sports Coordinator

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