Dear Members of the St Gregory’s Family,

I heard about a school recently that has a message as you enter the gate that reads, “Enter to Learn” and when you are leaving the school there is a another message that reads, “Leave to Serve”. The question is how do we serve?

Last Sunday was the Feast of Christ the King. This was a feast day that came about because of Pope Pius the eleventh, who I believe wanted to send a strong message to Mussolini, the Italian Dictator, that Christ had a kingdom that was not of this world but was far greater than the one Mussolini was in charge of. In the Kingdom of Christ, everyone was invited to sit at the same table, rank, money and status did not matter.

We have the opportunity to serve every day. This form of service takes many different avenues. We have students who are leaving to go to Schoolies on the Gold Coast and many other places to relax after the final examinations. These days there are other students who instead of taking the Gold Coast option are going on immersions in order to give time to other people less fortunate than themselves. Christmas is approaching and we often hear about Christmas kitchens such as Matt Talbot and others who ask for volunteers to help with the serving of Christmas lunch to those who would not otherwise have a lunch on Christmas Day. Many people serve by giving of their time in order to help others.

The annual St Vincent de Paul Christmas Collection is well underway at the College. This is a collection that helps St Vincent de Paul meet the many requests that they get from our local area to help families who are struggling to put a smile on the face of a child at Christmas. The College community has always been very generous with this collection and I am sure this year will not be any different. I have always been amazed at the number of baskets of items that St Vincent de Paul have to collect at our Christmas Mass, they always need a large truck. This is a practical way of serving by giving of material things to put a smile on the face of a young child.

There are many ways of giving and I would encourage everyone to look at how we serve in our community.

End of Year
The Years 7-10 Academic Awards evening will be held at the Campbelltown Catholic Club on Wednesday 10 December commencing at 6.00pm for Years 7/8 and at 7.30pm for Years 9/10.

Reports will be given out after the final Assembly on Thursday 11 December. The Christmas Mass will take place at 9.00am in the top quadrangle and parents are welcome to attend. We need to be aware that changes may have to take place to the venue at short notice depending on the weather. The Final Assembly will commence at 1.30pm and the students will be dismissed at 2.20pm.

Co-curricular Awards
Over the last three Fridays, during the Pastoral Care period, the College has presented the Co-curricular Awards for Years 9, 10 and 11. Congratulations to all the students who were acknowledged for their contribution to the life of the College in this area. Congratulations to the All Rounder and the Sportsman of the Year in all year groups. Unfortunately we have not been able to invite parents and friends due to the lack of space. Hopefully that eventually will be a thing of the past.

Building
I received the news last week that the building will not be completed by the commencement of 2015. The latest date is the end of February which has ramifications for a number of events at the commencement of next year. The Opening/Welcome Assembly and the High Achievers’ Assembly will be open air affairs. The dates respectively will be Wednesday 28 January at 8.30am and Friday 30 January at 9.00am. The Opening College Mass will take place at Mt Carmel Catholic High School on Wednesday 4 February commencing at 9.30am.

Hopefully by the end of February, the College will still be able to hold the Opening and Blessing of the Brother Luke Hall as well as the Music rooms.

Quae Seminaveris Metes.

Damien Millar
Headmaster
Mission

Last weekend a group of St Greg’s mums gathered at the Retreat Centre at Varroville for our first Mums’ Retreat. With the theme of Mary and Martha it was an opportunity for us to think about the many roles we fill in our busy lives and the importance of taking time to stop doing and simply be. It was a special time made even more special by the warmth and openness of the group and I thank those Mums who joined me for this event. Hopefully they will be able to encourage more Mums to join us next time in what I hope will become an annual event.

During the last week our students of Years 7 – 10 have been completing their yearly exams. Congratulations to all those boys who have worked so hard in their Catholic Studies classes and have gained excellent results. Your knowledge of the Church and its teachings is important. However, knowing all the right answers about the teachings of Christianity and the Catholic Church is not enough. They are a support to our faith, but we need to live them.

It is heartening to see the piles of gifts, decorations and foodstuffs growing in the various classrooms as our St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal and the Socks, Jocks and Razors Appeal for Matt Talbot Hostel heats up. It is in this spirit that we truly live out the Gospel teaching of “When I was hungry, you gave me to eat”. These will be presented at our Christmas Mass. All families are welcome to join us.

Cathie Clarke,
Director of Mission/RE Coordinator

Teaching and Learning

Students in Years 7 to 10 have now completed their exams. Over the next two weeks, students will be returning texts and finalising their 2014 programme of study. Students in Year 11 are busy working on their first assessment tasks for the 2015 HSC. As a group, they have impressed the staff so far with their willingness to learn and to seek help.

The Annual Awards Night will be held at Campbelltown Catholic Club on December 10 with a 6.00pm session for students in Years 7 and 8 and a 7.30pm session for those in Years 9 and 10. Parents will be notified by email if their son is receiving an award but all families are most welcome to attend.

Catherine Keegan,
Director of Teaching and Learning

Indigenous Education

The year is finishing up with a wonderful art project under the direction of Aboriginal artist, Darren Dunn in collaboration with UTS’s Dr Nicola Sinclair. Around twenty boys have participated in this as ‘ Aboriginal Art for Sport’. They have painted their own sports shoes, caps, paintings on boards, boomerangs and other assorted individual items. Together we are painting two beautiful mural pieces – a land piece with goannas that represent male energy and a water piece with turtles that represent female energy. Darren has worked in many schools over more than 16 years and we are very blessed to have him on our team.

Our last excursion for the year was to Sydney Opera House to the production of ‘Redfern Talks Back’. This is a work of forum theatre and is based on true stories of contact between young residents from Redfern and police. The boys said that the production increased their awareness of such issues. Half of our boys played an active role on stage as part of the experience.

Our Indigenous room has been very well utilised throughout the year. Open to everyone, there are always boys spending time here eating, playing games together, talking, playing didj, chatting with me, asking questions etc. It is a wonderful space for them to chill out, problem solve and just relax. The room is also used for meetings and gatherings with visitors such as AIEF staff.

Our Year 12 leavers have exited St Greg’s with positive plans for their futures. Two have already secured places at University – in Medicine and a combined Bachelor of Business/Bachelor of Law degree.

We look forward to another positive year in 2015.

Julie Harmour
Aboriginal Liaison Officer

She must be well attested for her good works, as one who has brought up children, shown hospitality, washed the saints’ feet, helped the afflicted, and devoted herself to doing good in every way.
Student Profiles

Congratulations to Allan McKenzie, Sam Hackett, Lachlan Inger and Hayden Peake on their successes as shown below and to Louis Amato and Sam Villata featured in Year 9 News:

Allan McKenzie
Year 10
Sportsman of the Year

Sam Hackett
Year 10
All Rounder Award

Lachlan Inger
Year 11
Sportsman of the Year

Hayden Peake
Year 11
All Rounder Award

Year 9 News

Last week a large number of Year 9 students were acknowledged for their involvement and success in Co-Curricular activities throughout 2014. In the News section of the College website I have included excerpts from an exceptional introduction to the Awards ceremony from student, Ryan Fitzpatrick.

Congratulations to the Major Award winners:

All Rounder: Louis Amato
Sportsman of the Year: Sam Villata

Peter Hogan, Year 9 Coordinator
Sports News

The 2013-2014 Cricket competitions have finally concluded with our First Grade team finishing as Semi Finalists in NSW All Schools Championship where they were unfortunately defeated by 28 runs by Hills Sports High School. The team had an outstanding year, winning the MCS competition and NSW CCC Downie Trophy, placing 2nd at the Marist Carnival and Semi Finalists of the NSW All Schools Championship. Congratulations to this very fine team and their coach, Mr Jamieson.

The MCS Tennis Championships have moved from early in Term 3 to the middle of Term 1 in 2015. The winning College of the MCS Tournament will now qualify for the CCC Tournament held later in the year. All students who have played and are interested in playing in the St Gregory’s Tennis Championship are to see Mr Albery.

MCS BASKETBALL AND CRICKET

All MCS Basketball teams had high winning scores against rivals Marist College, Eastwood and are growing in confidence, resulting in consistently higher scoring, really good team defence and five wins against Greystanes.

Another successful week for our Cricketers with wins in all games. Another eight wins to the Cricket teams have all teams placed in the top four of the MCS competition at this time.

ISA COMPETITION

In the weekend ISA competitions our U14 Basketball team has moved to the top of their division with a good 2 points win. The ISA Cricket team defeated Strathfield by 200 runs with Luke Docherty scoring 100 runs.

On Saturday in the ISA competition, the First Grade and U14 Basketball teams had wins against Sutherland and the College Cricket team had an 8 wicket win against Scots College led by Justin Stewart 3-17 and 68no.

Joseph Lantz, Sports Coordinator

The full sports report with detailed results can be found in the News section of the College website.

Other News

Save the Date
Parents Maroon and Blue Dinner Dance 2015

A Night of “Comedy”

WHEN: Saturday 21 March 2015
WHERE: St Gregory’s College
TIME: 7 PM to 11 PM

Canteen News

On the last day of this Term, Thursday 11 December, the canteen will be serving food as normal during recess, however lunch will strictly be orders only. There will not be any other food sold during lunch.

Thank you thank all Canteen helpers for their assistance during the year and I wish you a happy, holy and safe Christmas and new year.

Please remember, if you are unable to assist during 2015 or wish to change your day or the frequency you work, to please contact me by email: lynette.bristow@stgregs.nsw.edu.au.

All new helpers, parents, grandparents, carers and friends are welcome in 2015, if you wish to be included on the roster, please also contact me on the above email address.