Dear Members of the St Gregory’s Family,

Next Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent. It is a time of renewal and a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. It signals that we have been through the seasons of the church and like any calendar year, the cycle is ready to commence again. I read with interest that the start of Advent brings with it the realisation that we have not fully understood what the church celebrations of Christmas, Lent, Good Friday, Easter and Pentecost are all about with each year gain a little more depth to our faith, a little more experience which will hopefully deepen our understanding. This is most probably the truth of life in general.

As we approach the season of Christmas, we know it is a time of giving and we can do this at present in a practical sense by contributing to the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Collection. I have always been overwhelmed by the generosity of the St Greg’s families in relation to this collection.

We have received some very sad news recently - Mark Saliba (Class of ‘96) and Matthew Saliba’s (Class of ‘94) father, John Saliba, passed away last week. Warren Williams’ (Class of ‘53’ niece died after a tragic accident on the Hawkesbury last Sunday. I would ask you to keep the Saliba and Williams family in your thoughts and prayers.

This week Mrs Falas and her husband Theo welcomed their newborn son Nathaniel. Mother and son are both doing well. Congratulations to the Falas Family.

Parent Forum

The last Parent Forum for the year was held two weeks ago. Considering the weather, you might remember it was the night of the heavy rains, the morning and evening were well attended. As a result of the Forum you may have noticed that the background colour of the College Noticeboard has changed to make it easier to read especially in the morning when I believe that the sun was making it difficult to read. Thank you to all the parents who have participated this year as I have found it beneficial to receive advice at various times with regard to future directions of the College and also having the opportunity to clear up any misconceptions about happenings at the College.

Thank You Dinner

The Headmaster’s Thank You Dinner was held on Thursday evening with over one hundred people in attendance. Thank you to all the parents who have been involved in the various College activities this year for without the voluntary support of parents, we would not be offering a number of different activities. Thank you in particular to the Cuthbertson and Munro families who have been staunch supporters of the weekend BBQs throughout the Rugby season for the last five years. We will be looking for a new coordinator of the BBQs for 2014. Thank you also to the Sheehan family who were an integral part of the P&F when it was operating and also great supporters of the Canteen for many years as three boys passed through the College. Thank you to the other parents who will be leaving the College this year for their service in the voluntary activities.

Rain and car pick up

Last Friday in the downpour, whilst many boys were content to stand in the rain, a large number came into the bottom classrooms and were able to remain dry while they phoned or kept a look out for their parents to arrive. It might take a little longer but it will give the boys the option of remaining dry. I will table this again next year at the Forums and ask for feedback.

Learning Technology Supplementation programme

Over the next couple of weeks, the boys of Year 8 will undertake a Digital Citizenship Programme as well as a Boot Camp in relation to the introduction of the Laptop Programme being introduced in 2014. A lot of work (intellectual, time and money) has gone into this introduction over the last two Terms so that the boys will be prepared for 2014. There will be more communication with the specific Year groups especially early in 2014. I do want to thank the staff who have undertaken a big workload in order to make this happen.

Building

The tenders have come in and the contract is in the process of being awarded. The timeline will be thirty two weeks but, from experience, one has to allow for rain extensions. I would guess that the completion will be closer to forty weeks, in other words late Term 4 2014. We have already made arrangements for a number of functions such as our Opening Mass and Induction as well as the High Achievers’ Assembly, these will both be held at the Catholic Club on the same day early in the New Year. I will communicate these arrangements early in 2014.

Academic Assembly

The Academic Awards Ceremony for Years 7 – 10 will be held in the College Hall on Wednesday 11 December in the evening. A separate letter outlining the times and details will be posted shortly.

Final Day

A letter will go home shortly outlining the times and details of Thursday 12 December, the final day for students. The Reports will be given out on Thursday 12 December at the College Assembly at 2.45pm.

Art Attack

The exhibition of artworks of all the students was held on Wednesday evening. Once again, a lot of work has been given to the display and I am sure that it took many hours to produce the work and then to display it. The display is always so well done and it is a credit to the staff involved.

Quae Seminaveris Metes.

Damien Millar
Headmaster
Friday 29 November 2013
Year 7—10 Junior Dance
From 7.30pm until 10.30pm at St Patrick's College

Monday 2—Thursday 5 December 2013
Year 10 Work Experience

Monday 9—Wednesday 11 December 2013
Year 10 Camp

Wednesday 11 December 2013
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

Thursday 12 December 2013
Christmas Mass
Commencing at 9am in the Br Luke Hall
All families and friends of the College are welcome to attend

TERM 4 CONCLUDES

Finishing the year off on a high note:
Exams are finished and marked, reports are being collated, the MCS competition is moving toward the holiday break and our co-curricular program is drawing to an end for 2013. However tempting it may be to take the foot off the pedal it is now time to refocus and finish the year on a high. Make sure you are demonstrating the following in and outside of class:

- Completing all tasks to the best of your ability in class.
- Being a role model to other students and the general public by demonstrating impeccable behaviour, grooming and manners.
- Looking to improve your skill level in preparation for the 2014 school year.

If these standards are met then the end of Term 4 will be a very positive experience for you.

Parental Support
Thank you to the parent body in general for your support with our blitz on hair and uniform this week. It is very much appreciated. It makes the work we do so much easier when we are working together.

Stephen Kennaugh, Deputy Principal

AGRICULTURE NEWS

Upper Hunter Beef Bonanza
From 24 to 27 October the Show Team took two head of cattle (a steer and a heifer) and three students (Jack Finch, Blaine Parker and Toby Reardon) to the Upper Hunter Beef Bonanza in Scone. The Red Angus steer weighed in at 500kg, which put him in the heavy middle weight class. The steer was led by Toby Reardon who paraded him very well with the steer receiving a highly commended ribbon out of a class of 15. The boys then went to the Hunter Valley Quality Meats Abattoir to judge a variety of carcasses and cuts. A big thank you to Mr McGuiggan for his dedication and for travelling to Scone with us.

Gundowringa Day
On 5 November, members from the College Show Team travelled to Crookwell to a Corriedale stud called ‘Gundowringa’, operated by the Prell family. The day was an outstanding one with students not only from St Greg’s but also from Goulburn Trinity College and from Lithgow High School. The students spent the day judging ewes and a variety of rams, as well as speaking to fellow Corriedale breeders and industry representatives. A big thank you to the Australian Corriedale Society for helping run the day, Agriculture teachers Mr Harrison, Mr Stefanski, Mr McGuiggan and Farm Manager, Rick Nieuwenhuis.

Zone 5 Fleece and Sheep Judging
Just one week after the Gundowringa Sheep Day, boys from the Show Team participated in the Group 5 Zone Final Sheep and Fleece Judging event which was held here at St Greg’s. There was a total of 49 competitors from 3 schools; St Greg’s, Macarthur Anglican and Hurlstone Agriculture High School. We were very successful in the Merino Fleece judging. In the juniors, Lachlan Watkin received 3rd and in intermediates Brandon Prince received 2nd. In the Merino Sheep judging John Gooden received 3rd in juniors and in intermediates, Jack Finch received 2nd and Brandon Prince received 1st. In the junior Meat Sheep judging Will Cadden received a 3rd and Lachlan Watkin received 1st. In intermediates we had Brandon Prince who placed 3rd, with Salvatore Brancato 2nd and Luke Platts receiving 1st. This means that Brandon Prince will represent group 5 at the State final at the Sydney Royal Easter Show in judging Merino Fleece and Merinos, while Luke Platts and Salvatore Brancato will represent in the Meat Sheep judging, with Jack Finch as the reserve for Merino judging. Congratulations to all competitors for participating in judging at the College. Thank you to Mr Harrison, Mr Stefanski, Mr McGuiggan and Farm Manager, Rick Nieuwenhuis for their assistance in the running of the day.

Jack Finch (Year 10)
Yearly exams are now over and I must congratulate the boys for their attitude and behaviour during this testing time.

Year 7 boys have been involved in many different events in the past Term which included their first Graduation Mass, the annual Sports Dinner and a Transition to School workshop at St Thomas More Primary School.

I must congratulate the 8 boys who ran workshops and activities on the day supervised by Ms Burke. The students who were involved were: Brody Dooner, Leigh Brown, Luke Griffiths, David Ryan, Aaron Rego, Mitchell Kelly, Joseph Bottom and Joshua Vella. They were not only excellent ambassadors for the College but proved to be very adept at leading younger students in the various tasks.

Report by Leigh Brown and Brodie Dooner:

It was a great day at St Thomas More. There were two primary schools attending, they were St Thomas More and St Johns Primary. Students from three high schools attended to talk about their schools and what it was like to attend their school as a new student. We played lots of games and also during recess all of the students from St Greg’s played chess outside the hall. Several of the primary students were scared about going to high school but after we told them everything about how the school worked they were really looking forward to coming to our College.

Again I must congratulate the Year 7 boys for supporting our assigned Masses on Friday mornings and for wearing their uniform with a a high sense of pride and commitment to detail.

Stephen Hartnett, Year 7 Coordinator

Year 7, 8 and 9 Parents - There are only two weeks left for our St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper appeal. Please dig deep and get involved and send in your UNWRAPPED gifts with your son to his homeroom collection. At our Christmas Mass all of our generous gifts will be offered up as part of our offertory procession.

What can you bring?

- Unwrapped gifts of any kind suitable to your allocated family
- Christmas Foods (non-perishable)

Year 11 Parents – There are only two weeks left for you to contribute to our Matthew Talbot Hostel – Socks, Jocks and Razors appeal. On your next shopping trip please throw in some of the items from the list below and help bring dignity to those who need it the most.

- Men’s underpants and socks
- Men’s combs
- Men’s razors and shaving cream/toiletries (Small portions)
- Caps
- Packets of playing cards and puzzle books
- Inexpensive wallets
- Small writing pads and pens
- Small packets of lollies
- Environmentally friendly shopping bags to put them in.

Below are a few interesting statistics to get you thinking about the people our hamper appeal help:

- 50% of population under 18
- Nearly 60% are one parent families
- 40% over age of 15 in full time employment, but median income of only $320.00 per week – barely enough to cover rent and food, before considering electricity, water etc.
- 10% are elderly, of retirement age, many living alone

Scary figures aren’t they ….. a simple gift offers dignity and renewal in faith of human nature.

Debra Monte, Marist Solidarity Coordinator
MCS BASKETBALL AND CRICKET
Round 6 of the MCS competition had St Gregory’s playing 5 games of Basketball and 4 games of Cricket against Patrician Brothers College, Blacktown. Blacktown won all the Basketball and St Gregory’s won all the Cricket. While losing the Basketball games, all results were very close with only a few points being the difference in the final scores. It was a good strong effort by all teams in closing the gap of scores with the strong Blacktown teams. I credit the great improvement in teams with the growing number of players attending the early Wednesday morning training sessions. Highlights are: for the Opens – Lachlan Anderson 12 points and Brandon De Souza 10 points, Open Year 10 - Cameron Jefferys and Open Year 8 - Zac Anderson 16 points. This week’s games are at Minto Stadium.

The Cricket teams continued their excellent season with 4 wins against Blacktown and the Thirds defeated Fairfield. Highlights from these games are: the Firsts – Mitchell Taylor 62no, Seconds – James MacFetters 42no, Thirds – Daniel Slane 4-15 and Joshua Colagiuri 4 stumping after having 5 last week and Year 7 “A” – Ryan Clark 61no.

Week 7 of the MCS Basketball competition had the St Gregory’s teams with 3 wins and 2 close losses against Auburn. The First Grade team’s win was highlighted by 10 points to Lachlan Anderson and Brandon De Souza; Second Grade with 9 points to Jamie Dinh; Year 10 Opens with 10 points to Cameron Jefferys; Year 9 Opens with 13 points to Jack Carter and Year 8 Opens with 12 points to Timothy Villaverde and 10 points to Zac Anderson.

The MCS Cricket teams won 7 of their 8 games. Highlights from these games include First Grade – an 118 run defeat of Auburn; Second Grade – a ten wicket win; Third Grade – Zach Bedingfield 6-23 and Alex Bullow 80; Fourth Grade – James MacFetters 39no; Year 9 “A” – Joel Lovatt 22no; Year 7 “A” – Cameron Middleton 3-17 and Ryan Clark 26no and Year 7 “B” – Cameron Williams 3-17 and 30.

NSW CCC DOWNIE TROPHY CRICKET COMPETITION
On Friday our First Grade Cricket team played the second game in the NSW CCC Downie Trophy competition against De La Salle, Revesby at our College. Unfortunately due to wet weather the game was stopped. De La Salle, Revesby have declined to reschedule the washed out game and have declared theirinnings. St Gregory’s 7-242 and De La Salle 3-12 off 8.1 overs. Thus St Greg’s proceeds to Round 4 against St Peter’s College, Tuggerah. After contacting their Sport Coordinator the game is scheduled for Wednesday 11 December at St Gregory’s College #1 Oval starting at 9.30am.

ISA BASKETBALL AND CRICKET
The Saturday ISA Basketball competition had wins to the 15 years and Open teams with Cameron Jefferys scoring 32 point and Brandon De Souza 27 points. The Open Cricket team 6-102 defeated Collegians 5-95 in their Twenty20 game with Hamish Brill 26 and 1-12.

In the Saturday ISA Basketball competition the Under 15, Under 17 and Open teams had wins against St Andrew’s College led by Lachlan Anderson’s 25 points in the Opens; Liam Healy 8 points in the 17 years team; Sam Hackett 15 points and Allan McKenzie 12 points for the 15 year team; Jack Kelly 14 points for the 14 years team and 10 points each for Jacob Sykes and Zak Hackett for the 13 years team.

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS
David Ryan and Brenden Troy (Year 7) have been selected to the NSW 13 years City Hockey team to play Country early next year.

Zach Bedingfield and Brad Hauville (Year 10), and Brandon Faavae-Eli and John Spencer (Year 11) have been selected to the Illawarra ARU Junior Gold Cup U17 team.

Forthcoming Events

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>3-10 Dec</td>
<td>Marist Cricket Carnival, Shepparton, Vic.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Dec</td>
<td>Normal College Sport — No MCS Basketball or Cricket</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Dec</td>
<td>No sport</td>
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RETURN OF TEXT BOOKS
All boys in Years 7 to 10 must return all their text books.

Students who began Year 12 work this Term, must return all their Preliminary texts.

Non-refundable charges will be made for any texts not returned!

Joseph Lantz, Sports Coordinator