Dear Members of the St Gregory’s Family,

Welcome to back to the College and the 2015 school year. I extend a warm welcome to the many new families who are joining the College for the first time along with our new staff members.

**Prayers**

During the holidays, a number of families were affected by the loss of family member. Mr Tony Fitzgerald, former Deputy Headmaster, lost his mother after a long battle with illness. Michael Touzell (2013) lost his father after a long battle with illness. The grandfather of James Bosnich (Year 12) and Ethan Bosnich (Year 8), passed away suddenly during the holiday break. I would ask that you please keep these families in your thoughts and prayers as they struggle to come to terms with their respective losses.

**Enrolments**

Our numbers this year are once again very high and brimming to overflowing, especially in Year 10. Our boarding numbers once again are very pleasing. I am thankful that people have the confidence in the College to look after their sons.

**New Staff**

We have eleven new staff members this year due mainly to the creation of a number of new positions and people going on various types of leave. I will put the names of the new staff members on the website with their College particulars. I indicated in the letter last week a number of internal changes to positions and they are listed on the website as well.

**First Day**

I wish express my thanks to the many parents who came to the College on the opening day in order to see their sons off to school and to be part of the Welcome Ceremony. The weather made us move our ceremony indoors which created a number of problems, mainly relating to space, but hopefully parents were able to see the ceremony. Thank you also for your understanding with the traffic. With only one entrance, it is obviously very difficult to move the traffic quickly especially when so many people were not familiar with their new environment.

**High Achievers’ Assembly**

The High Achievers’ Assembly was held last Friday in the open air with brilliant sunshine on display. The young men of 2014 entered the Assembly in single file resplendent in their suits and looking very proud. Cameron Menzies gave a speech about his recent schoolies experience where he was part of a Marist Immersion to the Philippines. Jacob Mitchell, the College Dux for 2014, then delivered his address. Many of the boys have since mentioned to me how inspired they have been by the Duxes’ speeches over the years and this one was no different. Nick O’Neill and Cameron Menzies were presented as they were listed on the All Rounders List as they scored over 90 in each subject and Nick came twelfth in the State in General Mathematics. There will be a HSC Report placed on the College website in the near future.

**Parking and Pick Up**

I would just remind parents that unfortunately the only way boys can be picked up at the end of the day is through the pick-up line otherwise we will have traffic accidents. I would ask that people do not arrive early and then try to find a parking spot in the Senan carpark as this only causes angst for those people in the pick-up line who are supporting the College. It is difficult at the moment with the high volume of traffic and buses but I can assure that this will dissipate over the next couple of weeks. My advice to parents who are picking up boys from the College is to let the boys wait and arrive at 3.20 pm and it will be express pickup. I will have more to say on traffic management in the College as the year progresses.

**College Hall**

The builders have assured me that the project will be completed by the end of February. I will give parents a tour as soon as it is available for occupation.

It has been a wonderful start to the College year and I am looking forward to another positive year.

Quae Seminaveris Metes.

Damien Millar

Headmaster
Dear Parents,

May I add my welcome back to 2015. It has been a busy yet enjoyable start to the academic year with a number of special events. As is always the case, your sons have been outstanding.

One area where a reminder is needed is that of haircuts. The College diary clearly states the expectations. Put simply, as I mentioned to the boys, a line should never be cut into their hair and it needs to be blended and of even length all over. No barber can get that wrong!

Transport
I have received feedback that there have been some issues with some bus connections. Please don’t hesitate to contact the College and we will do our best to remedy it with the bus companies.

Can you also please ensure that you only drop off and collect your sons in the designated areas. It is unfair and unhelpful when parents choose alternatives to the drop off/pick up zones.

From the Counsellors
At the College, students and their families have access to professional support through the services of two College Counsellors. Students may be self-referred or referred to the Counsellor by their Year Coordinator, Headmaster, Deputy Headmaster, and/or parent.

Please inform your child’s Year Coordinator in writing at any stage if you do not wish for your child to access counselling.

Matthew Brennan, Deputy Headmaster

Mission

justLOVE

At our College Mass on Wednesday, after hearing the first reading and the Gospel story of the Good Samaritan, the Year 12 Leaders proposed a challenge to our students and I encourage each boy to think seriously about how they could accept the challenge and grow personally in their faith and spirit throughout 2015.

Daniel: justLOVE means what we heard in the first reading: Share your food with the hungry and open your homes to the homeless poor. Give clothes to those who have nothing to wear, and do not refuse to help your own relatives.

James and Tom: Year 7 – your challenge is to come to know people. By the end of the year, you should know the name of every boy in your Year group. justLOVE means community and building community begins in Year 7.

Dan and Vince: Year 8 – your challenge is to be involved. justLOVE means doing the best we can, and sometimes getting out of our comfort zone in order to do so.

Tom and James: Year 9 – your challenge is to be creative and supportive of the Lenten Appeal. justLOVE means supporting the vulnerable and the less fortunate and the Lenten Appeal is one way to do this.

Alastair and Sam: Year 10 – your challenge is to be involved in the community service programme. justLOVE means going beyond this community and serving others.

Jack: Year 11 – your challenge is to establish yourself as seniors and leaders. There will be many opportunities to reach out to others – in community service, as Big Brothers and during Retreat and Insight.

Luke: Year 12 – our challenge is to lead by example. We are called to be people of action as we witness to Christ. So Year 12 need to take up all of the challenges - build community, do our best, support the less fortunate, serve others and do the right thing just because it is the right thing.

Lachlan: As a College community we should pray together – at Mass, in song, in our work, in our relationships. This is the challenge of the Good Samaritan. This is the challenge of justLOVE.

Cathie Clarke, Director of Mission/RE Coordinator

Teaching and Learning

Welcome to the 2015 academic year. Year 12 have hit the ground running with a very practical study skills session with Prue Salter from Enhanced Learning. Year 11 have started their journey as senior students while Year 10 are working towards the first completion stage for the ROSA. Year 9 have started the study of electives for the first time while Year 8 has added Italian to their programme of study. For our new Year 7 students, the exciting but exceptionally daunting journey that is high school has just begun.

The full Teaching and Learning report with information on the Year 12 Study Skills session, study tips, and class groupings for 2015 can be found at http://www.stgregs.nsw.edu.au/assets/pdf/our_students/teaching_and_learning_2015.pdf

Catherine Keegan, Director of Teaching and Learning
Student Profiles

Congratulations to the following Year 12 students who have been selected as Boarding Leaders for 2015 and were inaugurated at the Opening Mass on 4 February 2015:

- Vincent Ryan
  Boarding Captain
- Jack Lane
  Boarding Vice-Captain
- Thomas Condon
- George Derrick
- Luke Docherty
- Brandon Prince
- Justin Stewart
- Harrison Wighton

Year 7 News

It has been a very hectic but satisfying start to the year. With weather being an added factor to the first day nerves, all students were exceptional in their ability to adapt and listen to instructions to make it a fairly smooth start. With Weeks 1 and 2 almost gone, the boys have been through many events already. With the High Achievers’ Assembly last Friday, a Laptop Rollout evening, their first College Mass and their group sport afternoons at the pool. I must say I was extremely impressed with the boys for being responsible and not losing/leaving behind their equipment on Thursday afternoon as I only had one item brought up from the pool (a Wests Tigers towel, which may be the reason why it has not been claimed!).

At this time of year, with such an enormous amount of change and expectations as a high school student, it is common for the boys to feel a little overwhelmed with the day to day running of the College. Only this week, the boys were involved in a massive transportation scenario to attend our Opening Mass, which was held at Mt Carmel Catholic College, and be a significant part of the celebration.

I can only implore parents to encourage the use of and constant referral to the diary as this is a major organisational tool that the boys should be using.

With a Swimming Carnival, Parents Cocktail Evening and Parent Forum in the not too distant future, I look forward to again meeting with many of you and I hope that if you do have any enquiries you do not hesitate to contact me via email or phone.

Thank you for your assistance in helping the boys start the year smoothly at St Greg’s and I look forward to working with you to ensure an enjoyable experience in Year 7.

Stephen Hartnett, Year 7 Coordinator
TERM 1 – WEEK 2

AUSTRALIAN MARIST CRICKET CARNIVAL
In December 2014 our First XI Cricket team participated in the Annual National Marist Cricket Carnival at Warragul, Victoria. St Gregory’s achieved equal first with St Joseph’s College, Hunters Hill who won the Carnival with a better runs / wicket percentage.

NSW CCC DOWNIE TROPHY CRICKET COMPETITION
Our First XI had a 67 run win over St Francis College, Leeton in the Round of 16 of the Downie Trophy Cricket Competition.

MCS BASKETBALL AND CRICKET
At the end of last year the Year 7 and 9 teams played each other in really good competitive games with both the Year 7 and 9 “A” having wins.

Last week our Third and Fourth Grade Cricket teams played a postponed MCS game with our Third XI 9-124 defeating our Fourth XI 8-113.

Joseph Lantz, Sports Coordinator

The full sports report with detailed results and Representative Honours can be found at:

School Fees / Statement Distribution
Dear Parents,

This is to advise that fee statements will be issued twice a month from February 2015 to assist families in planning their payments across the year. The dates the College will be processing fee Direct Debit or Credit Card payments is noted on the College Calendar.

Please contact Deanna in the Finance Office on (02) 4629 4112 if you have any questions in relation to fees.

John Sammut, Finance Manager

Reminders:

Year 7 Parents
Grandparents’ information sheets for Grandparents’ Day invitations need to be returned by Friday 13 February

Year 8 Parents
Year 8 Boys & Blokes @ their BEST!
RSVPs are due by Monday 9 February

Other News

College Open Day
10am—1pm
Sunday 22 February 2015
Headmaster’s Address: 10.10am and 11.30am
Tours commence: 10.15am and conclude: 12.30pm

Year 7, 2016 Enrolment Information Evening
Wednesday 25 February 2015
Commencing at 7.30pm

WESTERN FRONT TOUR VACANCIES 2016
A very limited number of student places have become available for the Western Front History Tour to Europe in April 2016. The 2016 tour will include Brussels, the Western Front, Paris and London across the April school holidays next year. If you are interested and would like further details regarding this wonderful opportunity, please contact me at the College or via email megan.murdoch@stgregs.nsw.edu.au

Megan Murdoch, HSIE Coordinator

Careers

US College and University Fair
Students interested in studying in the USA can meet Admissions Officers from a variety of institutions at the US College and University Fair to be held at SCEGGS on Monday 16 February. More information can be found at:

Sue Dein, Careers Adviser

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

Sue Dein, Careers Adviser