Dear Members of the St Gregory’s Family,

**Lent**

We are now in our second week of Lent. This is the time when Christ went out into the desert and fasted for forty days and forty nights in order to prepare for the trial that lay ahead for him. It is a time when we can also reflect on our lives, spiritual and otherwise. During Lent, we are asked to fast, pray and give alms and do works of mercy. As Christ went into the desert to pray, we also have places where we can get away from everything and take time out to reflect and pray. We are fortunate that we live in a country where it is not that difficult to find a peaceful place to take that time. I often remind the boys about the Chapel space which is available to them. It is very peaceful in there and gets them away from the busyness of the playground or I have suggested just going to the ovals which can also provide that reflective space. It is important to take time to stop and think about our relationship with Christ and also our family and friends. There are so many distractions, especially with technology and also for the way in which we use that precious commodity called time. Time is a limited resource therefore we have to spend it wisely.

The young men of the College have been asked to donate over the Lenten season to the Marist Missions. This money is used to help others who have no hope of ever having the education that the students of St Gregory’s are exposed to which I am sure that some students can appreciate as they have been to Vanuatu and Fiji to see first-hand what the Brothers do.

**Last few weeks**

The last few weeks have been exciting weeks with the new students settling in well with a number of functions such as the High Achievers’ Assembly, the Opening Mass, Year 7 Laptop Roll Out, Year 11 Information Evening, the Gordon Fetterplace Public Speaking Competition, the Swimming Carnival, plus a variety of other everyday activities. It has been pleasing to see so many people involved in these activities. The calendar continues again this weekend with the Foundation Cocktail Evenings for new parents and the Open Day on Sunday.

**Open Day**

The Open Day is an important day on the calendar as it is very important for us as a College to showcase the education that your sons receive and the facilities that the College has to offer. Thank you for your continued support in this area as parents and students are our best advertisement according to our polling of prospective families. The Open Day is conducted between the hours of 10.00am and 1.00pm on Sunday 21 February. Thank you to those parents, students and staff who have made themselves available to help out in so many ways.

**Gordon Fetterplace 25th Public Speaking Competition.**

Thank you to those students who participated in the competition last Friday evening. It takes a lot of courage to stand before an audience for three minutes and speak with limited notes or no notes. I applaud those who try and congratulate those who can do it well as it is a gift to have such confidence. Congratulations to those gentlemen who won their respective divisions. Thank you to the family and friends who came along to support the young men in their endeavours.

Quae Seminaveris Metes.

Damien Millar
Headmaster
Year 12 have started the school year with much anticipation and excitement as they embark on their final year of schooling. Academically it was a matter of simply picking up from where 2015 had ended in Term 4, as study, note taking and routine become part of daily life for the year group.

The excitement came from the realisation that they were now officially the senior class of the College and with that came an extra expectation of leadership and example, and a responsibility to hand onto those beginning their journey at St Greg’s the history and traditions of those who have gone before them. Already the young men of Year 12 have had an opportunity to do this by stepping up at the Opening College Mass, meeting their Year 7 little buddies for the first time and pledging their commitment as leaders for 2016 to the College Community.

At the Opening College Mass Josiah Moehau, the College Captain for 2016, spoke to the whole College Community. He welcomed all those new to our community with a message of support and commitment to lead by example. He encouraged the gentlemen of St Greg’s to make the most of every opportunity presented to them and to strive to make a difference in everything that they do.

Year 12 is a Year of balance and getting things right. I strongly encourage each and every student in Year 12 to make the most of their final year and do whatever they can to ensure they achieve an Academic Grade that will allow them to undertake courses and pathways that will allow them to achieve their ultimate career goal.

Andrew Jamieson, Year 12 Coordinator
Congratulations to the following students who achieved 1st place in their respective divisions at the 25th Annual Gordon Fetterplace Public Speaking Competition:

- Lachlan McInerney (Year 7)
- James Hilton (Year 8)
- Marcus Bombardiere (Year 9)
- Zak Hackett (Year 10)
- Tanmay Kulkarni (Year 11)
- Josiah Moehau (Year 12)

Thank you to those Year 7 families who were able to join us this week for the study skills evening run by Dr Prue Salter from Enhanced Learning Educational Services (www.enhanced-learning.net). The evening helped families put systems in place to help students work towards achieving their personal best in an efficient and effective way. Students examined their home study environment, the way they organise and manage their resources, how to work effectively at home and deal with distractions, how to manage the workload in high school, and the steps to studying in high school: making study notes, learning the notes by testing yourself and doing as much practise as possible. Parents are encouraged to review the handout from the session with students and discuss the main areas identified where changes need to be made.

Parents can also find extra study skills tips on the following website: http://studyskillstopitssparents.com/.

Year 7 will have a follow-up session with Prue in Term 2.

All secondary students at our school also have access to a comprehensive study skills website to help students to develop their skills. Go to www.studyskillshandbook.com.au and enter the username: forstgregsonly and the password: 60results.

Assessment Calendars
An outline of all the assessment dates for 2016 for Years 7 through to 12 can be found on the College website under Our Students, Assessment schedules. All parents and students have also been emailed a copy of the calendar and a copy is also available through Skyblue.

Please note that these calendars will be updated if there needs to be a change of date for assessments as sometime happens in a school of this size.

Catherine Keegan,
Director of Teaching and Learning
TERM 1 – WEEK 4

MCS BASKETBALL AND CRICKET
In Round 10 of the MCS Basketball competition, while putting in a good effort, the Firsts were defeated by 9 points, Seconds had a BYE and all Junior teams had good wins against All Saints, Liverpool.

Round 10 of the Cricket competition saw the First Grade team having a BYE and wins to Seconds, Thirds, Fourths, Year 10A and Year 8A teams.

The final round of the MCS Basketball and Cricket competitions was completed with one win to our First Grade and a draw to our Year 9 Open Basketball teams. Unfortunately, this now brings an MCS competition end for all of our Basketball teams who have missed out on the Semi Finals in all of their Divisions. The Firsts now prepare for the Marist Carnival to be held during the school holidays hosted by St Joseph’s College, Hunters Hill. Congratulations to all players and coaches.

Seven of our eight Cricket teams had games in the final round with all teams having season ending wins.

In the MCS Semi Finals First Grade play Parramatta and the Seconds play our Thirds both at St Greg’s. Away games have Fourths playing Penrith, Year 10A play Eastwood and Year 8A play Blacktown.

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS
Congratulations to the following students who have been selected as MCS Softball Representatives: Year 12 – Jake Gilbert; Year 11 – Ben McWilliams, Chris Plain; Year 10 – Davis Haworth, Timothy Berkhout; Year 9 – Angus Rochester, Jack Burns, Jordan Harrington and Year 8 – Harry Bolton.

Joseph Lantz, Sports Coordinator

The full sports report with game highlights can be found in the News section of the College website

Other News

Parents and Friends
Special 90 Year Celebrations
27—29 May

Late last year we sent out a “Save the Date” for the 90 Year Celebrations that we hope all parents and friends of the College, both past and present, will attend and support, namely The 2016 Art and Craft Show and The Maroon and Blue Ball, all happening from 27-29 May.

We have invited Danielle Sullivan (D J Mate) to be our featured artist and hope you will view some of her beautiful work on her website. We have also had a wonderful response from many local artists, both established and emerging and can promise you there will be something for everyone. The Craft Fair will also have local craftsmen whose work is both affordable and sought after. The entire weekend begins with a special “Cocktail Party” on Friday evening from 7.30pm to 10.30pm.

For the past five years, we have held a Parent dinner/dance as an opportunity to celebrate and meet other parents from the St Gregory’s community. This year we have decided to step this event up a little more and hold The Maroon and Blue Parents Ball on Saturday 28 May from 7.00pm until 11.00pm.

We hope many parents will join us for this special occasion. We invite you to form a table or simply come along yourself and we will sit you with parents from your son’s Year group.

Tickets for the Cocktail Evening will be $15.00 and, we hope, $90.00 for the Ball, for a three course meal and complimentary drink. Further details and bookings will be advertised soon.

At this stage there is a fantastic group of parents on the committee working hard to ensure a special and memorable weekend for all of us. I hope you will support them and their great work.

Sue Dein, Parent Liaison

GUITAR LESSONS
are available at St Greg’s.
Contact Miss Wray for details.

Year 10 Parents
Have been emailed an invitation to attend
“We’re Half Way There”
Cocktail Evening on Friday 4 March.
Please remember RSVPs are due by Tuesday 26 February.

The first FAMILY/YOUTH Mass for 2016 at St Anthony’s Church, Tahmoor, will be on Saturday February 27 at 6pm. There will be the usual band, the choir and a very keen group of Liturgical dancers. Refreshments will be served after Mass.