Dear Members of the St Gregory’s Family,

Do we disappoint ourselves and God at times? God calls on us to make choices and I am sure that we all know what the right choices are but at times we fail to make the right choice due to the fact that we are human. How often do we get confronted by the poor looking for help? Do we help or walk on by? How often do we gossip about someone and think that it is just normal conversation and that it is not doing any harm? How many times in our lives are we confronted by people who are looking for forgiveness in order to keep their relationship with us positive? How many times do we extend compassion to those around us who need compassion? These are confronting questions and if we take them seriously, hopefully upon reflection we will continue to challenge ourselves to make the right choices.

Open Day
Open Day is on this Sunday, 23 February 2014 commencing at 10am and concluding at 1pm. Our Information Evening is on Wednesday, 26 February 2014 commencing at 7.30pm in the Brother Luke Hall. We are fortunate to have the Hall as this has eliminated the need for the extra sessions that we were going to run, in order to accommodate people in a smaller venue. Enrolment packages will be handed out on the Wednesday evening.

Public Speaking
The Gordon Fetterplace Public Speaking Competition was held last Friday evening. This gives the students the opportunity to showcase their talents in the area of Public Speaking and also allows for the selection of the team to commence the CDSA Public Speaking Competition tonight. Congratulations to all those young men who were prepared to take a chance and speak in front of an audience. Thanks to Mrs Santos for her organisation of this event.

Year 8 Boys and Blokes
This event was held last Sunday. We were very fortunate to have the Hall at our disposal in light of the weather. The event was well attended and proved to be a successful afternoon for the boys and their fathers.

Parent Forum
The first Parent Forum for the year was held on Monday for the Year 7 parents and it was pleasing to see so many parents in attendance. It gave the parents an opportunity to ask and clarify any questions they had about their son settling into life at the College.

New Parents Cocktail Evenings
I look forward to seeing and meeting new parents at the Cocktail Evenings this weekend.

Quae Seminaveris Metes.

Damien Millar
Headmaster
Mission

Welcome Book

New families will receive a welcome book at the Cocktail evening this weekend. I hope you will take some time to read this to become acquainted with the many ways St Gregory’s serves to be a Catholic and a Marist college. For other parents who may be interested, this document is available to download from the College website.

At our assembly today, we launched the Marist Solidarity Programme for 2014. The theme is Young People Matter. The boys were given a brief overview of what we can achieve with our fundraising during Lent this year.

This week we have been accepting expressions of interest from Year 11 students wishing to be involved in the immersion to the Solomon Islands. We have been overwhelmed with the interest and I congratulate these young men for showing their commitment to our fellow Marist communities. The process of selection will now begin and students will be advised as each step occurs.

Our Community Service programmes were also launched last week. I encourage all students in Years 10 and 11 to become involved in this project and experience the rewards that come from volunteering and working in areas of need in their home, school and local communities.

Cathie Clarke,
Director of Mission/RE Coordinator

Year 12 News

Year 12s started the school year as a whole with an air of excitement and anticipation as they embarked on their final year of schooling.

Academically it was a matter of simply picking up from where 2013 had ended in Term 4, with study, note taking and practise having been part of their routine throughout the summer break.

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 to St Greg’s the history and traditions of those who had gone before. They needed to take ownership of this as a Year group and did this by stepping up at the rehearsal for the Opening College Mass, meeting the Year 7 Class of 2014, becoming their “Buddies” and being part of the Dux Assembly that was held at the Catholic Club.

His message was one of expectation and hope for a year that would be successful for all the students at St Gregory’s. As this goes to print all are waiting for the traditional “Year 12 Jersey” to arrive so that it can be proudly worn each Thursday and for major whole College events.

Year 12 is a Year about balance, getting sorted, commitments and obligations and measuring them up against study, assessments and exam preparation in order to achieve an Academic Grade that will allow them to undertake courses and pathways to achieve their ultimate career goal; Year 12 2014 seem well on their way with this journey.

Sue Dein,
Year 12 Coordinator
Student News

Congratulations to Declan Grohala (Year 9), Matthew Sultana (Year 8) and Blaine Parker (Year 10) on their success in the areas shown below:

Declan Grohala
Runner Up 2013/14 SLSA Junior Life Saver of the Year Award

Matthew Sultana
Northern Territory Representative Baseball 2014

Blaine Parker
Finalist, Paraders’ Competition Kangaroo Valley Agricultural Show

Teaching and Learning

The College subscribes to a web-based service that helps students develop essential skills for academic success. There are units of work on topics such as improving time management skills, how to study, research skills, summarising, technology use, brain and memory.

Students and parents are encouraged to have a look at the site so you know what topics are covered and what resources are available. Also check out the THINGS TO PRINT page under the MORE menu.

To access the handbook, go to www.studyskillshandbook.com.au and login with these details:

username: forstgregsonly
password: 60results

For further useful study tips, follow the link: http://www.stgregs.nsw.edu.au/assets/pdf/Letters_to_Parents/Teaching_and_Learning_Study_Skills_Tips.pdf

Catherine Keegan, Director of Teaching and Learning
MCS BASKETBALL
At the conclusion of the MCS Competition, the Basketball First Grade, in 3rd place, and the Year 8, in 4th place, qualified for the Semi Finals. The Year 9/10A team placed 5th and the Seconds placed 6th. Unfortunately the teams were defeated in the Semi Finals played at Penrith Basketball Stadium yesterday.

MCS CRICKET
Our First Grade, Second Grade and Year 9A Cricket teams were Undefeated Minor Premiers, with our Year 7“A” team finishing equal first and Minor Premiers. The Third and Fourth Grade teams placed 2nd and 3rd in the Second Division competition. In the semi finals, First Grade, Second Grade, Year 9A and Year 7 teams came through victorious and will proceed to Grand Finals next week. Our Fourth Grade team defeated our Third Grade team and will proceed to the Grand Final of the second division competition.

NSW CCC DOWNIE TROPHY CRICKET COMPETITION
Our First Grade Cricket team played the Quarter Final of the NSW CCC Downie Trophy competition against St Paul’s College, Manly. The 111 run win was highlighted by Bailey Dickinson scoring 40 runs and Tom Sowden 4-35.

COLLEGE SWIMMING CARNIVAL
Our annual Swimming Carnival was held on Wednesday 19 February at Bradbury Pools.
Results are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sports Houses</th>
<th>Age Champions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st place</td>
<td>Kilian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd place</td>
<td>Donovan</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd place</td>
<td>Molloy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th place</td>
<td>Laurentian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 years</td>
<td>James Pratt (K)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 years</td>
<td>Marcus Bombardiere (D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 years</td>
<td>Mark Perich (D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 years</td>
<td>Declan Grohala (D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 years</td>
<td>Blake Draper (D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 years</td>
<td>John Spencer (D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opens</td>
<td>Benjamin Hall (M)</td>
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From the results of this carnival we have selected our Swimming Squad with further trialling to be done at the College. The squad will train at 6.30 on Wednesday mornings and will participate at the Marist Carnival to be held on 4 March at Marist College North Shore and then at the MCS Carnival to be held on 26 March at Homebush.

Joseph Lantz, Sports Coordinator

BISHOP PETER WANTS TO HEAR YOUR VOICE!
Young people (from ages 12 and up) and those involved with young people (eg parents, teachers, clergy, youth ministers, catechists) are invited to complete a survey on what works and what is needed for Catholic youth:

http://tinyurl.com/dowyouth

Then on Tuesday 1 April those involved in youth ministry will gather with 100 young people to determine our priorities moving forward with Jesus. Ask your principal about representing your school.

Contact our Diocesan Youth Office on 4222 2460 or youth@dow.org.au

Find out more about the National Vision for Youth at http://tinyurl.com/anointed-sent

2014 VACCINATION DATES FOR YEARS 7 AND 9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Vaccine</th>
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<tr>
<td>2 April</td>
<td>HPV</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 June</td>
<td>HPV</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 August</td>
<td>HPV, Varicella Year 7 only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 November</td>
<td>HPV</td>
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</table>

Parents requiring information of vaccinations their sons have received can request a statement from Australian Childhood Immunisation Register.

Phone 1800 653 809
Email: acir@medicareaustralia.gov.au

Online:www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/online
Or in person at a Medicare office.