Dear Members of the St Gregory’s Family,

As you would be aware, we are now entering the fourth week of Lent. Forgiveness is a theme of Lent and one that is encouraged by Christ on a regular basis. Pope Francis mentioned recently that Christ is prepared to forgive us continually, the problem is that we do not ask for forgiveness often enough.

When one reflects on the pain that we can do to each other and from our point of view it is usually the other person who caused the wrong, but do we harbour a grudge towards that person and keep the pain with us as we travel through life or do we do what Christ suggests and let go of our pain by forgiving the other person. Not only do we help the other person by forgiving them but how do we feel ourselves by extending the olive branch? Surely no one wants extra pain to be carried with them when we can always let our burden go by forgiving. How many times was Christ let down by his disciples but he was willing to forgive again and again? Surely the example is there for all of us.

I would encourage the boys to continue to give generously to help the Marist Missions in their endeavour to help people in the islands who do not have what we have, especially Fiji where they have suffered from the recent storms.

Congratulations to Liam Marshall and Lawson Eva on their recent selection in the U/15 Australian side to play Pakistan in Dubai. Well done gentlemen!

Congratulations to the gentlemen (Johnathan Bombardiere, Lachlan McInerney, Anthony Robinson, Carl Rushworth, Alessandro Comin, Marcus Bombardiere, Alexander Mangion) who proceeded through to the Zone Finals of the CDSA Public Speaking Competition tonight. Next week the Finals of the CDSA Public Speaking will be held at the College.

Thank you to those parents who gave of their time with the recent Open Day. We have had many positive comments about the boys and the parents. The fact that everyone was prepared to give glowing reports about the College was a very positive approach to the Open Day.

Thank you to our politicians, Mr Chris Patterson and Mr Greg Warren for their work over the recent weeks in managing to make some changes to bus timetables which are very helpful in getting our young men home a lot quicker. Thanks also to Mr Burridge from Busabout who has been working with Mr Brennan to bring about the positive outcomes.

Congratulations to our Show Team who visited the Canberra Show last weekend and came home with a bag of ribbons. They won the Grand Champion of the Show which is the first time that this has ever occurred according to Mr Harrison. Thank you to the staff who gave of their time to give our young men the opportunity to participate in the Show.

Today we farewell Mr John Kiernan (JK), who is retiring after 23 years of service to the College in a variety of capacities. Mr Kiernan is a true example of what the St Greg’s spirit is all about. He has always been fully supportive of the College and of the young men who have passed through with his care for them. I wish him well with his retirement and may it be a long and healthy one.

Quae Seminaveris Metes.

Damien Millar
Headmaster
182 boys have returned to commence Year 11 or the Preliminary HSC Course this year and as a group they have settled into the rigours of senior school quite well. Whilst it is a significant change from the way things were in the junior school, many have accepted the challenges so far.

Thus far the involvement level of this cohort has been strong. Our first Year 11 Community Mass (held on Friday mornings) saw 36 boys make the effort to be there. The Year 11 contribution to the Opening School Mass was also most pleasing. At the annual Swimming Carnival, many Year 11 boys marshalled time and time again to represent their respective houses. At the same time, many of them were front and centre when it came to the cheering that created such a wonderful atmosphere on the day.

Currently, on a pastoral care level, we are focusing on establishing short term and mid term goals. This is a necessary challenge for the boys and one that I encourage these young men to take good care in doing. Goals can give the necessary direction to make senior education the success that they hope it will be.

Patrick Newell, Year 11 Coordinator

In the last few weeks, the community of St Greg’s has been strong in running many events and raising considerable funds for our Lenten Appeal. While these activities are conducted right throughout the year, they are concentrated in the Lenten Season as it is the time we are called to give, pray and fast.

One of the common questions I am asked is why we run BBQs on Fridays when we are fasting. The current Church teaching is that we should do acts of penance during Lent – what we do depends on what works for us in helping us to be better people. A vegetarian for example would gain nothing by giving up meat.

For many of our boys, the act of preparing, cooking and serving a BBQ with their peers is an act of community and an act of service as they give of their time. These activities are fund raising and awareness raising. They are aware that the funds they raise will go to support the education of other young people in Marist schools in less advantaged places. This is what Jesus himself taught about fasting and giving alms – he wanted us to fast from our obsession with the ME and start thinking about what truly matters in life; making the needs of others our own, especially the needy of our world. They are all around us: children and the old, the sick and the suffering, families and individuals, next-door neighbours and people in lands faraway. Whatever we give up or give as alms should be something of ourselves, something that costs us. We will receive blessings from God in return.

Pope Francis says, "Fasting makes sense if it really chips away at our security and, as a consequence, benefits someone else, if it helps us cultivate the style of the Good Samaritan, who bent down to his brother in need and took care of him."


Not the letter of the law, but the spirit of the law.

Sacramental Programme 2016

Lessons for the College Sacramental Programme will commence for participants after school on 6 May and the Celebration of the Sacraments will occur at 8.00am on Friday 29 July.

Parents/carers who would like their sons to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation or Eucharist or would like more information regarding this programme should email judith.walsh@stgregs.nsw.edu.au.

Cathie Clarke, Director of Mission/RE Coordinator
**Student Profiles**

Congratulations to the following students who proceeded through to the Zone Finals of the CSDA Public Speaking:

- **Alessandro Comin** (Year 9)
- **Marcus Bombardiere** (Year 9)
- **Alexander Mangion** (Year 10)
- **Johnathan Bombardiere** (Year 7)
- **Lachlan McInerney** (Year 7)
- **Anthony Robinson** (Year 8)
- **Carl Rushworth** (Year 8)
- **Alessandro Comin** (Year 9)
- **Marcus Bombardiere** (Year 9)
- **Alexander Mangion** (Year 10)

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**Teaching and Learning**

**Assessment Calendars**

Assessment calendars for all students are available on both Skyblue and on the College website. These will be updated regularly to reflect any changes in dates.

**Absence from an Assessment Task**

Students in Years **10, 11 and 12** are expected to provide a **medical certificate** to support absence from an assessment task. This should be handed to the KLA Coordinator on the first morning you return from absence. The certificate **must cover the whole time you have been absent**. The KLA Coordinator will then arrange a time for you to undertake the task.

If you are absent for a submission task, you will not need a medical certificate **if the task is submitted on the due date and by 9am**.

Students in **Years 7, 8 and 9** are to submit a **parent note** to the KLA Coordinator on the morning of their return to school, explaining why the student was absent from the task.

Students who do not provide a medical certificate (Years 10, 11 or 12) or a parent note (Years 7,8 or 9) **MAY** be required to complete the task after school.

**Prue Salter’s Study Skills Tip for March** can be found at [Teaching and Learning](#).

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*Catherine Keegan*, Director of Teaching and Learning
**Sports News**

**TERM 1 – WEEK 6**

**ANNUAL SWIMMING CARNIVAL**

Our Annual Swimming Carnival was successfully held at the Bradbury Aquatic Centre again this year. Congratulations to the winning Sporting House Kilian (Green) followed in order by Donovan (Yellow), Laurentian (Red) and Molloy (Blue).

The team now prepares for the Marist North Shore Invitational and the MCS Carnivals held in March.

**MCS BASKETBALL AND CRICKET**

The MCS Cricket Semi Finals were completed with our First XI, Third XI, Fourth XI and Year 8A teams winning to progress to the Grand Finals this week. The First XI and Year 8 teams will play Grand Finals at Raby Ovals and the Thirds and Fourths will play at the St Gregory’s No. 1 Cricket Oval.

**ISA CRICKET**

Our ISA Open Cricket team defeated Blue Mountains Grammar by 82 runs and will now play Bathurst in the Grand Final this weekend.

Joseph Lantz, Sports Coordinator

The full sports report with game and individual highlights and representative honours can be found in the News section of the College website.

**Agriculture News**

On Wednesday, 24 February seventeen very excited boys travelled to Canberra Royal Show, along with the cattle and sheep.

In the 14 to 17 years School Parading competition we achieved a number of excellent results, which included two fifth places, a fourth, a second, a highly commended and a first which went on to become a fifth in the final.

In the School Sheep Judging we achieved Grand Champion Ram, Reserve Champion Ram, Reserve Champion Ewe, first place for Ewe Lamb Woolly and Shorn.

Friday saw the show open to the public, and two of our cattle being judged, one being a shorthorn heifer that placed fourth and a charolais heifer that placed first.

Results achieved in the Limousin Cattle Judging were: our bull placed second, one of our heifers placed third and our final black limousin heifer placed first and then went on to win Senior Champion and Grand Champion Limousin Cow and the Supreme Exhibit of the Breed.

Our boys also won a number of ribbons with the sheep: a second and a third in the Junior Sheep Handling competition and a seventh placing in the Senior Meat Judging.

Sunday was our most successful day with us parading our supreme exhibit heifer against all other female breed cattle and being awarded the Champion Female of the Show. From this we went on to compete against the champion bull of the show, where we were awarded the Supreme Beef Animal of the Show.

Results of the Senior Sheep Handling included second, third, fourth and seventh placings. In the Intermediate Meat Breeds Judging we achieved a fifth place and in the Overall Meat Breeds Judging a third place as well as a second in the Open Merino Judging.

This year’s Canberra Royal was the most successful to date for the College and it would not have been possible without the dedication of staff and the 17 participating students.

Louise Bianchi, Agriculture teacher

The full Agriculture report with individual results and photos can be found in the News section of the College website.