Dear Members of the St Gregory’s Family,

We are now entering the 4th Week of Lent. The boys have been concentrating on raising money for the Lenten Appeal and have been doing a good job in that area.

“Lent is our time. It provides us with an opportunity to reflect on God’s compassion and patience rather than punishment. We know that God wants to help the sinner repent, to face the reality of his or her sinfulness, and to turn back to God. Patiently, God gives us this time to take responsibility for turning things around and for producing the fruit of justice, forgiveness, peace and love.” (St Patrick’s Bulletin) It sounds like the good father at work in the family, the only difference is that God’s family has a few more children than the normal family. How do we work with our own children? Do we give the time to turn things around when they make mistakes? Do we give them time or is life too busy? In many ways these are challenging questions for each of us. I can also apply it in the classroom. When I see boys make mistakes, I can hopefully give them the opportunity to learn from the mistake and then guide them back to the path. Lent is a time for reflection!

Final Profession of Brother Justin

Brother Justin Golding (1997) made his final profession in the College Chapel last Saturday in the company of many fellow Brothers along with family and friends. Brother Justin is presently at Trinity College in Lismore. Brother is not only an ex-student but he has also worked at St Gregory’s in the past. I am sure that we all wish Justin well in his chosen vocation.

Cocktail Evenings

The Year 7 evenings were held two weeks ago and were well supported by Year 7 parents. It was a great opportunity for parents to mix and mingle and hear about the work of the Foundation and the plans for the future development of the College. The Year 10 – “Half Way There” will take place tonight.

Public Speaking

The College entered a large number of students in the CDSA Competition with five students going through to the Zone Final. It was pleasing to see that there was only one other school with five students in the competition. We now have four students in the Final this week. It is a great credit to the staff and the students to be so well placed. The Final will take place at Riverview tonight. The boys’ efforts support the theory that “success breeds success” as we build on the great results of last year in Public Speaking.

Canberra Show

The team returned from the Canberra Show with a bag of ribbons. I am sure that there will be a more detailed explanation later in the Newsletter. I was impressed with the manners of the students. They are very socially adept and speak confidently with people from all walks of life, and look at them directly in the eye. The Moss Vale Show is on this weekend.

Open Day

The Open Day was a great success with over 250 people coming through the gates and also more again on the Wednesday Evening for the Information Evening. Thank you so much to the parents who gave of their time to help with the Open Day as it gives great witness to the visitors that we are all working together for the College Community.

Leave

I will be taking Leave after Easter and will return to the College at the commencement of Term 3. Mr Kennaugh will be the Acting Headmaster during my absence. Mr Brennan will be the Acting Deputy Headmaster and Mr Spencer will be the Acting Head of Boarding. I thank each of these gentlemen for taking on the acting roles in my absence.

Sport

Congratulations to all our cricket teams as they are all Premiers with the exception of the 3rd grade side who had to play our own 4th grade in the semi-finals. It is a remarkable effort taking out the premiership in all grades.

The ISA Basketball competition draws to a close this weekend with three teams playing in the Finals at Penrith tomorrow. Once again a great effort as this is another sport where the boys appear to be developing their talents.

Parent Forum

Thank you to the many parents (over 50 in number) who came to the recent Years 10, 11 and 12 meetings. This is a big shift in numbers and one that is very pleasing to see. Hopefully it has been rewarding for parents who have attended.

Quae Seminaveris Metes.

Damien Millar
Headmaster
Dear Parents,

As advised in the December Newsletter, the College commenced emailing the School Fee accounts to all families on a monthly basis from January 2013. Whilst the annual fee charges continue to appear on the January invoice, the February to December distributions serve as statements showing any new charges, payments received and movements in instalment amounts across the year.

Please contact me on (02) 4629 4226 if you have any questions re this.

Thank you.

John Sammut, Finance Manager

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**Kangaroo Valley Show/Canberra Royal Show 2013**

2013 has seen the start of yet another successful year in the show ring. So far we have been to two shows being Kangaroo Valley Show and Canberra Royal Show. In the upcoming weeks we will be competing at Moss Vale Show, Camden Show and the Sydney Royal Show with many more such as the Dubbo National Heifer Show and Upper Hunter Beef Bonanza later in the year.

Kangaroo Valley Show delivered some fantastic results with our show team bringing home an array of ribbons. These consisted of four 1st, three 2nd, a 3rd and a 4th place. Furthermore, we were also ecstatic that our heifer (St Gregory’s College Google) received Junior Champion Female. Our boys also participated in a Junior Judging and Parading competition. Notable mentions go to Aaron Canham, Sam Jones and Jack Lane who qualified through to the State Final Paraders competition to be held at the Sydney Royal Show. Furthermore, the following boys were placegetters in the Kangaroo Valley Show Parading competition: Bailey Ivancic (2nd), Daniel De Vecchis (3rd), Hayden Peake (3rd) and Martin Parsons (4th). These were outstanding efforts considering almost 80 students were involved in these competitions.

Canberra Royal Show also saw more success in the show ring. This year we took 13 head of sheep, 9 head of cattle, 17 students and 3 staff members. Being a larger show than most, both our animals and students were facing some tough competition. However, we still managed to come home with some fantastic results. It is pleasing to note that every animal taken to the show was in fact a placegetter in their respective competitions. Our cattle came home with two 2nd places, two 4th places and a 5th place. Our Shorthorn cow (Fuji) and calf won Senior Champion Female of the Show and our Shorthorn Heifer was in the running for Reserve Junior Champion. Again, our students were entered in a Paraders competition where all of our boys were finalists with David Thompson and Ned Mulholland being placed 3rd and 5th respectively.

Our sheep also brought home a multitude of ribbons. We received five 1st, six 2nd, five 3rd and six 4th places. In the Schools section we also received Champion and Reserve Champion Long Wool Ram, Champion Long Wool Ewe and Supreme Long Wool exhibit of the show. Again our students were entered in a Junior Judging and Handlers competition with the following boys achieving some pleasing results: Sam Hackett (3rd in handlers, 5th in Junior Judging), Brandon Prince (2nd in Handlers, 7th in Junior Judging), Nicholas Hreszczuk (3rd), David Thompson (4th), Harry Wighton (5th) and Sam Jones (6th).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the boys for their commitment, dedication and involvement in this year’s Show program. Thus far, the boys who have represented us at each respective show have been outstanding ambassadors for the College and all should be extremely proud of their efforts.

Michael McGuiggen, Agriculture Teacher

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**Monthly School Fee Account Distribution**

Dear Parents,

As advised in the December Newsletter, the College commenced emailing the School Fee accounts to all families on a monthly basis from January 2013. Whilst the annual fee charges continue to appear on the January invoice, the February to December distributions serve as statements showing any new charges, payments received and movements in instalment amounts across the year.

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Thank you.

John Sammut, Finance Manager

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**Have you changed your address, email address, contact phone numbers, emergency contacts, etc.?**

If so, please forward these changes to The Registrar, Kate Bryan, in writing via your son or by email to: kate.bryan@stregs.nsw.edu.au
Busways Inspection Friday 22 February

Busways inspectors visited the College on Friday 22 February. They saw first-hand how late the station buses come in the afternoon. The first station bus didn’t arrive until 3.16pm and therefore many students would have missed connections with trains and buses. I told the inspectors that our issue is that the buses do not come early enough (I would hope that they would be waiting for the boys when they get out at 3.05pm). If their feedback to Head Office does not result in buses arriving and leaving earlier in the afternoon, we will need to go directly to the Minister for Transport’s Office. I will keep you informed of developments through the Newsletter or via email.

Picking up students from Campbelltown Station who have Priority 1 passes

Both Mr Millar and myself have been monitoring this. The response has been very positive on the whole with very few boys/parents abusing the system since the notice went into the Newsletter. We have also been monitoring boys who are catching the Priority 1 buses then socialising at the top of the station. Boys who do this will also have their passes revoked as they obviously don’t need them.

Picking your sons up early from College Carnivals

The recent College Swimming Carnival was a great day in general but was soured by the number of students who were seeking to leave early. Our College Swimming Carnival is meant to be a day where the boys support their House, their mates and the College for the duration of the day not half a day. The expectation is for all students to stay the entire day and participate wholly in the day. For future events, can you please ensure your son stays for the entire day.

Parents and Friends parking in the top car park and down at the Farm to pick their son up

Thank you to the parents who are doing the right thing and lining up to get their son via the car pick up. Boys have been given consequences if they choose to defy our expectations in relation to Student Pick Up.

Stephen Kennaugh, Deputy Headmaster
ANNUAL SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Congratulations to the staff, students and parents of St Gregory’s College for a really enjoyable Annual Swimming Carnival at the Bradbury Pool. We look like having a very competitive Swimming Squad this year led by Co-Team Captains Joshua Calman and Mitchell Ashkar. Our Head Swimming Coach, Mr Dixon, is looking forward to our two Marist Carnivals hosted by North Shore and Parramatta as lead in Championships for the MCS Carnival. Well done to Kilian (Green) who are the Swimming Champions defeating Laurentian (Red) by 9 points.

2013 SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

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<tr>
<th>CHAMPION</th>
<th>RUNNER UP</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 years</td>
<td>Brenden Troy</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 years</td>
<td>Mark Perich</td>
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<td>14 years</td>
<td>Declan Grohala</td>
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<td>15 years</td>
<td>Grant Bourke</td>
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<td>16 years</td>
<td>John Spencer</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 years</td>
<td>Mitchell Ashkar</td>
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<td>Openps</td>
<td>Joshua Calman</td>
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MCS BASKETBALL AND CRICKET

Congratulations to the First Grade team who put in a great effort in a losing Semi Final to defending Champions St Dominic’s College. Special thanks to all the Coaches, Managers and Scorers – Mr Perna, Ms Burke, Mrs Sligar, Mr Cook, Mr Bale, Ms Bevington and Ms Jackson. A senior squad of players, coached by Mr Cook, is now preparing for the Marist Basketball Championship to be played in Alice Springs, NT, at the end of Term 1.

In an outstanding result St Gregory’s Cricket teams have won all four of the MCS Cricket Divisions of competition with the First Grade, Second Grade and Year 7-9 teams being Undefeated Premiers and the Year 9-10 teams only having one loss in the process of winning their Premiership. A great result was that our Fourth Grade team were Second Grade Grand Finalists and our Thirds were Second Grade Semi Finalists. This was an excellent effort by the students and their Coaching staff of Mr Jamieson, Mr Kennaugh, Mrs Keegan, Mr Howell, Mr Anderson, Mr Reyes, Mr Abra and Mr Bingham.

Cricket Awards presented at College Assembly include:
- Lachlan Inger: 5-8 vs Patrician Brothers College, Blacktown and 107 retired vs St Paul’s College, Greystanes
- Blake Williams: 5-26 with a Hat Trick vs Holy Cross College, Ryde
- Craig Ticehurst: Hat Trick vs Marist College, Eastwood

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS

Andrew Penman (Year 12), Mitchell Austin, Tim Hearn (both Year 11) and Daniel McIntosh (Year 10) have been selected to the MCS Open Baseball team.

The St Gregory’s Junior Triathlon team of Joshua Ashkar and Brent Rushworth (both Year 8) and Rhys McGrath (Year 9) placed 1st in the Combined Catholic Colleges and 3rd in the NSW All Schools divisions of competition. The Intermediate Triathlon team of Flynn Fielding (Year 9), Daniel White (Year 10) and John Spencer (Year 11) placed 6th in the CCC and 14th in the NSW All Schools.

Joseph Lantz, Sports Coordinator

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 March</td>
<td>NSW CCC Baseball Championship</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 March</td>
<td>MCS Swimming Carnival – Homebush</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 March</td>
<td>MCS Football / WFA Rugby League 13yr and 14yr</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 March</td>
<td>MCS Football / WFA Rugby League 13yr and 14yr</td>
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Our Debating and Public Speaking season for 2013 is now well underway. Our season began with the 22nd Annual Gordon Fetterplace Public Speaking Competition. This was one of the best years on record with over 50 participants from Years 7-12. There were a variety of topics to speak on ranging from ‘I Believe’, to ‘What Difference a Dollar Can Make’.

Speaking times ranged from 3-4 minutes for Year 7 to 6-8 minutes for Years 11 and 12. Participants in Years 10 to 12 also participated in an impromptu section. Impromptu topics ranged from ‘Ghosts I’d Like To Meet’ to ‘The Best Letter of The Alphabet’. It was a great evening with lots of laughter and very entertaining speeches. Our award winners on the night were:

- Year 7: 1st Zac Hackett, 2nd Alexander Mangion, 3rd James Hunt and Encouragement Award winner Ryan Toner.
- Year 8: 1st Sean Mabin, 2nd Michael Arcuri, 3rd Daniel Lowe and Encouragement Award winner Louis Amato.
- Year 9: 1st Edward Mulholland, 2nd Josiah Moeau, 3rd Cathal McMahon and Encouragement Award winner Henry Gordon.
- Year 10: 1st Jack McNally, 2nd Patrick Cooke, 3rd Liam Bone, and Encouragement Award winner Sebastian Cannavo.
- Year 12: 1st Dominic Andrew, 2nd Dean Boucher, 3rd Timothy Green, and Encouragement Award winner Thomas Parrish.

The first round of the CSDA Public Speaking Competition was held at Mary MacKillop College, Wakeley on February 22. Our public speakers were Zac Hackett and Alexander Mangion of Year 7, Michael Arcuri and Riley Alcorn of Year 8, Josiah Moeau and Cathal McMahon of Year 9, Jack McNally and Matthew Moro of Year 10, Jack Hudson and Jordan McCarthy of Year 11, Dean Boucher and Dominic Andrew of Year 12. Five of our students, Zac Hackett, Alexander Mangion, Michael Arcuri, Jack McNally and Jordan McCarthy, have progressed to the Zone final at Cerdon College, Merrylands.

On 12 March we will be hosting the Rostrum Voice of Youth Public Speaking Competition at the College. Public Speaking competitions will commence again in Term 3.

Our Debating season will begin in week 10 of term 1. I look forward to informing you about future Public Speaking and Debating events as they occur. It is with great excitement that we prepare for the 2013 Debating season.

Mrs Maria Santos
Public Speaking and Debating Coordinator