Dear Members of the St Gregory’s Family,

**Palm Sunday**

This week we celebrate Palm Sunday, the time when Christ was welcomed into Jerusalem and feted as their King. A week later, he was to be crucified by the same people who had welcomed him only a week earlier. One day they were great supporters thinking that he had come to drive out the Romans but a week later how many spoke out in his defence? How many times do we stand by and watch from the sidelines and think to ourselves that what is happening is wrong but we take the easy way out and say nothing? You will hear it often that the silent majority are present but no one hears their voices, it tends to be the noisy few. We all have a responsibility to be actively involved in our society and our church, especially if we wish to make a difference.

**Public Speaking**

Congratulations to Alex Mangion who placed 3rd and Jack McNally who came 1st in the recent CDSA Public Speaking competition. I should mention Michael Arcuri – Year 8 and Jordan McCarthy of Year 11 who were placed in the top twelve. There would be over 130 students who enter each division and it is therefore a real credit to the boys and staff who have worked with them.

**Year 10 Cocktail Party**

The Year 10 Halfway There Cocktail Party was held two weeks ago. There were over one hundred people in attendance to hear our guest speaker former Police Commissioner Mr Ken Moroney. It was a very enjoyable evening and it gave the parents the opportunity to see the new buildings and renovations that have taken place since they joined the College in Year 7 2009.

**Parent Forums**

We have now completed the Parent Forums for Term One and it was very pleasing to see the number of parents who attended (over one hundred and fifty parents at the meetings). Mrs Dein will, before the end of Term, email the answers to any of the questions that were raised, to all parents who were in attendance.

**MCS Swimming Carnival**

Recently the MCS Swimming Carnival was held at Homebush. The College finished second to Marist College Eastwood. The team has attended a number of practice carnivals in the lead up to the MCS and I must say that it has been a great experience to be present to see the harmony of the team and the way in which they support each other. I am sure that the team recognises the great support that the parents give to their sons through their attendance. Thank you to all the staff who have been involved with the team over the last six weeks, and especially Mr Dixon who coordinates the programme.

**Social Activities**

The Annual Twilight Dance for Year 7 was held with the young ladies from St Patrick’s last week. According to the boys it was a great success. Thank you to the parents who offered their services in support of the Dance.

Yesterday, the Year 8 Bowling activity took place at the Campbelltown Bowling Centre with St Patrick’s. Thanks to Mrs Falas for organising this.

**Harmony Day Assembly**

The Assembly was held last Friday and the theme of the Assembly was “One Nation One Country”. It was a marvellous Assembly with examples of boys telling their stories and other boys singing. I was impressed with the talent that I saw on stage but also the courage that was displayed by boys who would not normally speak in front of an audience of one thousand boys.

**Homework Club**

Just a reminder about the Homework Club for Years 7, 8 and 9. It is now conducted in Room 010 on a Monday afternoon from 1515 until 1615. This arrangement allows for quiet study and the boys can then catch the late bus.

**Progress Reports**

The Progress Reports for Year 12 went home this week. This Report gives students and parents the opportunity to see how students are progressing academically, especially in light of the upcoming Year 12 exams. Progress Reports for Years 7 – 11 will be going home on the last day of the Term. In order to get their Report, students need to be in attendance on the last day of Term.

**Shows**

Congratulations to the Show Team on recent successes at the local Shows. At each Show, the boys have brought home a number of ribbons with a number of boys also qualifying for the Royal Easter Show. Thank you to Mr Harrison who leads the team and is ably supported by Mr Nieuwenhuis, Mr Stefanski, Mrs Wall and Mr McGuiggen.

**Staff Change**

Mr Daniel Bogos who has been our IT Network Manager will be leaving next Thursday to take up a position at Wenona Girls’ College at North Sydney. I thank him for his contribution to the College in his time with us and wish him every success with his new position.

**ISA Basketball Finals**

Recently the Saturday ISA teams played their Finals at Penrith. The College won two out of three which is a credit to all concerned. One of the moments I won’t forget in my time at the College will be seeing the boys cheering for their teammates and the parents standing amongst all the boys as it was coming down to a nail biting finish. A very impressive demonstration of College Spirit!

**College Shop**

Could I ask all parents that if you have been having trouble with stitching on the shorts and tracksuit bottoms, could you let the College Shop know of the trouble and send the damaged items in with your son so that we can do something about improving the quality of the items.

Quae Seminaveris Metes.

Headmaster

**Vol. 45, No. 4, 22 March, 2013**
Friday 22—Sunday 24 March 2013
Art and Craft Community Fair

Sunday 24 March 2013
Old Boys Family Footy Day Challenge Cup
Commencing at 10.00am

Wednesday 27 March 2013
Easter Liturgy
Commencing at 9.00am in the Br Luke Hall

Friday 29 March—Monday 1 April 2013
Easter
Public Holidays/Free Weekend

Tuesday 2 April 2013
Year 12 Half-yearly Exams
(until Friday 12 April)

Tuesday 2 April 2013
Year 9 Immunisations

Wednesday 3 April 2013
Year 7 Immunisations
Year 9 Geography excursion

Friday 5 April 2013
Grandparents’ Day
CSDA Debating Round 1

Friday 12 April 2013
Term 1 concludes

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**Station Buses**
I have been communicating with Busways regarding some of the Station Buses getting to the College late. Some drivers have used the excuse that they were waiting in traffic so we have been at the front gates and getting buses through in the afternoon, often directing them to drive on the wrong side of the road. It is interesting to note that in most cases the Station Buses are still not here by 3.15pm when they should have already departed. I have recorded this information for the past three weeks and it has been forwarded to Busways. I hope to see some positive outcomes from it.

**Driving cars up behind the Buses**
I ask that no parents drive their cars on the wrong side of the road behind the buses in the afternoon. This is not helping us in our endeavours to quicken up the process for students and just creates bad feeling from those parents who are doing the correct thing.

**Spray Deodorants**
Could all parents please ensure that your son/s are not bringing spray deodorants to school. Besides it being against school policy the side effects for asthmatics and people with allergies can be severe or fatal. We will continue to conduct blitzes on bags to ensure students get the message.

**Harmony Day/National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence**
Our Headmaster’s Assembly on Friday 15 March was a real success. Thank you to Ms Harmour and the students and staff involved in their preparation and execution. This Assembly will compliment our Pastoral Care/Boys to Men Programme and activities planned for the year.

**Kicking Balls in Area 4**
For safety reasons no student is allowed to kick a ball in this area before school, at recess and lunch and after school as the area is often crowded.

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**The Careers Room**
The Careers Room is up and running for another year. Gentlemen, please be aware that the noticeboard outside the Careers Room always has information relevant to Open Days, Courses and general Careers news.

Two websites that also will be valuable for you are:
(i) www.mhscareers.com
(ii) www.seek2b.com

Two Careers Expos that will be worthwhile are:
- Sydney Morning Herald HSC and Careers Expo : Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 June, 10am—3pm at the Royal Hall of Industries, Moore Park. For more information: info.hscandcareers.com.au or 1300 190 290.
- Western Sydney Careers Expo 2013 : Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 June, 10am—3pm at Sydney Showground Olympic Park. For more information: westernsydneycareersexpo.com.au or 1300 190 290

Congratulations to Aaron Canham (Year 12) who was awarded 2013 NSW Mining Rollover Scholarship. Aaron also won the 2012 Mining Scholarship.

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**Families are reminded that changes to address, email address, contact phone numbers (including mobiles), emergency contacts as well as medical information updates/changes regarding medications etc.**
Should be forwarded to The Registrar, Kate Bryan, in writing or by email to: kate.bryan@stgregs.nsw.edu.au

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**From the Deputy Headmaster …..**
Year 11 began the year with the theme of “It’s in your Hands”, so Term 1 has been a time for Year 11 as seniors to organise themselves in regard to their studies, class and assessment work, personal grooming and appearance.

With 24 Year 11s as Big Brothers, these Year 11s quickly took up this year’s theme by making sure the new Year 7 students felt welcomed by the St Gregory’s Community.

Many students have volunteered across a range of College events from the Open Day to Public Speaking and the Art and Craft Community Fair.

A record number of students applied for the Solomon Islands Immersion tour, out of which we congratulate Joshua Brady, Lachlan Carter, Henri Comazzetto, Adam Dzevlan, Nickolaus Eder, Luke Hughes, Chris McCue, Jarrod Paterson, Henry Pearce and David Tranby for being chosen.

Year 11 students have also been leading by example by volunteering to attend the Blood Bank to donate blood. This they do most Fridays as a Community service.

Extra Curricular activities this Term have involved Year 11s in Cricket, Basketball, Swimming, the College Musical and Chess with a large number also trying out for winter sport representation.

A significant number of Year 11s have also taken advantage of the Senior Study afternoons offered here each Monday and Tuesday, so it would seem that Year 11s have embraced this year’s theme and have taken the responsibility for their Year 11 and HSC years “in their hands”.

Sue Dein, Year 11 Coordinator

Year 10 Geography Excursion – Sublime Point and Sharkies Beach

On February 26 Year 10 Geography boarded the buses for an exciting excursion to Sublime Point and Sharkies Beach located in the Illawarra Escarpment. This Term, Year 10 has been learning about geographical issues facing Australians today. The main issue we have researched being Coastal Management. It was exciting to put what we had learnt in the classroom into practice in the field. Arriving at Sublime Point, we had morning tea overlooking the picturesque Illawarra Escarpment, offering stunning views of Kiama to the south and Southern Sydney to the north. We then had the opportunity to participate in various workshops to enhance our knowledge of field work and build on the content we had learnt back at school. We analysed various maps, including topographic and political maps, used various tools to survey the plateau, such as thermometers, hydrometers and clinometers and also got to improve our sketching skills by reproducing the different areas of the region; the industrial, urban, escarpments and beaches – to name a few. Back on the buses we went to enjoy lunch on Sharkies Beach – south to Coledale Beach and north to Austinmer. A trip to the rock platform revealed interesting results, as we analyse the creatures and specimens living right underneath our feet. After a few slips and slides and an interesting look at effects of erosion (a quite serious geographical process), we took samples from the beach to determine the water quality. This yielded particularly interesting results, given the torrential rain that upset the sediment and sewerage earlier in the week. After a few soaked shoes and a promiscuous dog that loved to follow the group we boarded the buses back to the College. The privilege to observe our beautiful coast, the issues affecting it and to put our theory into practice made for a fun and enjoyable day for the Year 10 Geography students.

Jack McNally (Year 10 Student)

This Public Speaking season has been one of our most successful. In the CSDA Public Speaking Competition we had four of our students progress to the final at Saint Ignatius’ College, Riverview; Alexander Mangion in Year 7, Michael Arcuri in Year 8, Jack McNally in Year 10 and Jordan McCarthy in Year 11. Alexander Mangion came third in Year 7 and Jack McNally came first in Year 10. Entertaining and well written speeches were presented by the students.

On 12 March, we hosted the Rostrum Voice of Youth Public Speaking Competition at the College. Our participants on the night were Sean Mabin, Jared Marks, Edward Mulholland, and Sam Hackett, in the junior division, and in the senior division, Jack McNally, Jacob Mitchell, Matthew Marks and Dominic Andrew. Sam Hackett was runner up in his junior heat; Edward Mulholland, Jack McNally and Dominic Andrew have progressed through to the Regional Final of Rostrum Voice of Youth Public Speaking Competition.

Public Speaking competitions will commence again in Term 3. It is with great enthusiasm that we are currently preparing for the 2013 Debating season which will begin in Week 10 of Term 1.

Mrs Maria Santos, Public Speaking and Debating Coordinator
CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL
Parents and students please note that the Annual Cross Country Carnival will be held at the College on Tuesday 26 March after lunch during Periods 5 and 6. This date is not on the College Calendar nor in the Students’ Diary.

SWIMMING CARNIVALS
Our College Swimming Squad competed in two Marist Swimming Carnivals that were hosted by North Shore and Parramatta. The strong results and preparation from both Carnivals gave confidence to our team going into the MCS Carnival held last week at Homebush. The Swimming team placed 2nd in the MCS Carnival with Marist College, Eastwood defending its Championship. Highlights included Mitchell Ashkar being 17 years Age Champion, the team winning the Senior Trophy and the 17 years 4 x 50m Relay team of Mitchell Ashkar, Todd McCarten, Kane Alexander and Ben Hall breaking the MCS record and will now represent the College at the CCC Championship. Congratulations to the many students who participated in the Carnival, to their Head Coach, Mr Dixon, and to the assisting staff, Miss Davidson, Miss Wray, Mr Anderson and Mr McGuiggan.

MCS FOOTBALL AND RUGBY LEAGUE
The MCS Football (Soccer) competition began with excellent results to our teams who played Trinity College, Auburn. The Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 teams had strong wins and the First Grade team had a 2 all draw. The First Grade team will continue the MCS competition with all MCS First Grade teams playing in a central venue as part of the selection process for the Open MCS team to play in the CCC Carnival in Term 2.

In the Weight for Age (WFA) Rugby League MCS competition for the 13 years (60kg) and 14 years (65kg) players, the 13 years team had a draw and loss and the 14 years team had a win and a draw. The WFA competition will continue through Week 10.

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS AND AWARDS
Following the CCC Baseball Carnival where MCS defended their Championship Andrew Penman (Year 12) and Mitchell Austin (Year 11) have been selected to the CCC Representative team to play in the NSW All Schools Championship.

Mitchell Ashkar and Kane Alexander (Year 12) and Ben Hall and Todd McCarten (Year 11) will represent MCS at the CCC Swimming Championship.

Joseph Lantz, Sports Coordinator

Forthcoming Events

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<td>26 March</td>
<td>Annual Cross Country Championship</td>
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<td>28 March</td>
<td>MCS Football/WFA Rugby League 13 and 14 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-6 April</td>
<td>Marist Basketball Carnival, Alice Springs, N.T</td>
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<td>4 April</td>
<td>MCS Football/WFA Rugby League 13 and 14 years</td>
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<td>11 April</td>
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First XI v Old Boys Game

On 7 March the First XI opened their season with their traditional game against the Old Boys. The teams play for the Brother Walfried Shield, which is in honour of a great Marist Brother who started the world famous Celtic Football club. The game was highly a competitive clash, played in the best of spirits. Despite substantial possession and numerous chances to the First XI, the old boys took a two-nil first half lead after two world class strikes from midfield.

After half time the First XI showed amazing spirit to claw back two goals with Sam Onana Awono equalising from the penalty spot. Hence, the shield will be shared in 2013. The game showed that the First XI play an attractive and skilful brand of football. Despite their inexperience, I am sure they will be a force in the MCS competition. Thus far, they have responded very well to everything I am trying to achieve with the team.

Jason Marks, Coach

CAMDEN SHOW’S MOST OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE!

The College band gave yet again a great performance at the local Camden Show. It was great to see parents there for support. For the first time the college entered four boys into "Battle of the Schools Talent Quest". Against such schools as Elderslie and Camden, the four gave a great acoustic version of Jason Mraz "I'm Yours". They won most outstanding performance of the competition. Well done to Te Taarai Shelford, Alex Massima, Kolia Aigaga and Josiah Moehau, who all shared the $250 prize money!

Kathryn Wray, Music and Visual Arts Teacher