Headmaster’s News

Dear Members of the St Gregory’s Family,

We celebrated Easter Sunday last week and now we have moved on with our lives. Just take a moment to reflect on where the disciples were a week after Christ had risen. They had withdrawn from the world and were gathered behind closed doors in a state of worry and fear. They had been told by Mary of Magdala that she had seen the Lord and believed but this was not enough to help the disciples overcome their fear.

When fear grips us, we tend toconvince ourselves that the worst is going to happen, because we only see dead ends and limited options. With no sense of direction, we distance ourselves from those we love the most or from those activities which give meaning to life. By doing this, we allow ourselves to be disempowered just as the disciples did. We need to remember that, with our belief in God, all things are possible. We only have to stop and take a moment to see what a wonderful life we have, yes, there are ups and downs, but nothing we cannot overcome with the help of Christ.

Brother Michael

After nine years as a member of our community, Brother Michael will be leaving the College next Tuesday to move to St Augustine’s in Cairns. Brother Michael has made a substantial contribution to the life of the College during his time. Brother is one of those quiet achievers who work away in the background and make sure that whatever task they are working on will always come to fruition and be done well. Brother has covered many areas during his time at the College including Boarding Supervisor, Sacristan, Library Assistant and Archivist. His work as Sacristan has been a major contribution because he ensures that everything is ready for College masses, Sunday evening masses, baptisms, weddings and funerals. Whatever happens in the Chapel happens under his caring eye so that everything is done in a meaningful way. His work in the archives is legendary as many would appreciate, especially ex-students who have attended various functions, with displays relevant to the particular year group, courtesy of Brother Michael. Recently he produced a set of posters that captured the teams that won competitions last year. Brother Michael will be a loss to the College and the Brothers Community and a wonderful addition to Cairns. I thank Brother Michael for his contribution and we wish him well in his new ministry.

Last week the College held its Easter Liturgy in the Hall. The theme is always the same but the different way that it is presented year in and year out is a credit to everyone involved. The engagement of the students is excellent and the presentation by the students is something to be seen. The singing has moved to another level with a small choir doing some marvellous harmonies.

The Harmony Day Assembly took place a couple of weeks ago. It was a credit to Ms Harmour and the team of supporters who conducted the Assembly as it was one that was thoroughly enjoyed by all, especially the display by the African drummer who was amazing and captivating.

Last week, the College Boarding Leaders (Mr Hawkins, Mr Morrissey and Mr Spencer) visited Griffith for the ICPA Conference (Mr Spencer) and met the families over a couple of days. The gentlemen told me how much they appreciated the opportunity to visit the families in their home situation as it gave them a greater understanding of where the boys were coming from. Thanks also to the Ellis family who hosted the lunch in Hillston on the Saturday as it gave the College the opportunity to meet with a number of families who were interested in looking at St Greg’s as an option for the future.

Co-curricular Program

Recently the College hosted the CDSA Public Speaking Finals which is a public speaking competition amongst all the Catholic secondary schools in Sydney. The College was successful in having Anthony Robinson (Year 8) make the Finals. Principals and teachers from across Sydney, told me how impressed they were with the facilities that the College offered and how impressed they were with the boys who greeted them and escorted them around the College.

Congratulations to Mr Dixon and the MCS Swimming Team on their success at the recent MCS Swimming Carnival.

I recently attended the Corriedale Society Centenary Celebrations at the Sydney Show where the College took out the Grand Champion Ewe, which is quite an achievement when one realises that the College is displaying against commercial breeders. Congratulations to Mr Harrison and the team of staff and students who presented at the Show.

Quae Seminaveris Metes.

Damien Millar
Headmaster
Mission

Welcome to the Season of Easter in our Church calendar. Our Easter liturgy was a particularly moving experience as so many students were involved and all participated in the prayers and singing.

Our liturgy began with an explanation of Holy Week as a time to reflect on the passion and the death of Jesus as well as the battle between good and evil in the world and between love and selfishness within each one of us. Many Year 12 boys took on the roles of readers and reenacting some of the scenes from the last days of Jesus’ life. The washing of the feet was particularly significant as the lessons of humility and service were demonstrated by three Year 12 boys washing the feet of their buddies in Year 7.

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, Eucharist or Confirmation or would like more information regarding this programme should email judith.walsh@stgregs.nsw.edu.au.

Cathie Clarke, Director of Mission/RE Coordinator

Year 10 News

Year 10 students have shown themselves to be a strong and devoted group of young men. As they prepare themselves for the remainder of the school year it is wonderful to see the initiatives taken by many members of this group. The Lenten Appeal has been a wonderful starting point to showcase the ability and leadership qualities associated with this group.

2016 will be a challenging year for some of the boys as they realise that senior school subject selections will soon be a major focus, whilst some students will want to move into the workforce and commence apprenticeships and traineeships that will shape their future. Whatever the outcome, all the students need to remain focused for the year ahead.

Another highlight this term was the introduction of the College community service program. Many students were enthusiastic when spoken to by senior students and staff regarding their experience. Many questions were asked and I am confident that the majority of our students will take the initiative with a serious approach.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the boys on their maturity and behaviour during our recent excursions for History and Geography and their leadership during the swimming carnival earlier this year.

Baldino Vetrano, Year 10 Coordinator
Student Profiles

Congratulations to the following students for their achievements as shown:

Louis Amato
(Year 11)

Liam Novak
(Year 11)

Declan Grohala
(Year 11)

Robert Warcaba
(Year 11)

MCS Record Breaking Relay Swimming Team
Set new Carnival records in the 4 x 50m Freestyle and 4 x 50m Medley Relays

Tadhg Chretien
(Year 7)
13 years
MCS Doubles Tennis Champion

Noah Ingleton
(Year 7)
13 years
MCS Doubles Tennis Champion

Teaching and Learning

Absence from Assessment Tasks Years 10, 11 and 12

Due to the large number of students who have missed assessment tasks in Term 1, the College will now conduct missed assessment tasks on a Monday afternoon after school. This will also mean that students are not removed from classes where they have already missed lessons due to illness.

Students are required to complete all assessments to be eligible for the award of a ROSA.

A medical certificate is still required to cover absence from the task.

Students and parents will be advised in writing and the tasks will be supervised by the Headmaster, Mr Millar, in the Study Hall. The tasks will begin at 3.15 pm. Students will be finished in time to catch the 4.30pm bus to the station. Failure to attend at this time may result in an N award.

NAPLAN Tests 2016

The 2016 NAPLAN testing programme will be conducted for all students in Years 7 and 9 from Tuesday May 10 until Thursday May 12. More detailed information has been emailed to all Years 7 and 9 parents.

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

**TERM 1 – WEEK 10**

In a very rare and special sporting moment for the College, after defending the Tennis and winning the Swimming this year, we now hold all five of the one day MCS Championships: Swimming, Athletics, Cross Country, Tennis and Golf. This is a wonderful achievement for all to share, particularly the fine young sportsmen who represent our College and importantly our excellent coaching staff.

**MCS SWIMMING CARNIVAL**
The good win at the North Shore Invitational Carnival has been followed up with the College’s first win in 12 years at the MCS Carnival. In a close win our team placed 2nd in the Junior Shield (12–16 years), 1st in the Senior Shield and 1st in the Aggregate Trophy. Our consistency in all age divisions contributed to this very rewarding Championship.

**MCS TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP**
Winning an MCS championship is a wonderful result of hard work, defending it is special as every game is a Grand Final for your opponents. Not only has the Tennis team now defended the Championship for its third consecutive win but has also won the Senior Trophy for only the fourth time since 1978 along with the Junior and Aggregate Trophies.

**MCS FOOTBALL (SOCCER) COMPETITION**
Round 2 of the MCS weekly competition against Blacktown resulted in six wins, a draw and one loss. The winning teams were Year 7A: 2-1, Year 7B: 3-0, Year 8B: 1-0, Year 9: 5-0; Year 10: 1-0 and Seconds: 4-1. Year 8A had a 1-1 draw and the Firsts had a close 3-4 loss. After 2 rounds of competition the College has ten wins, one draw and one loss – a good start to the competition.

Congratulations to all teams and officials.

**Joseph Lantz, Sports Coordinator**

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

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**Agriculture News**

**Sydney Royal Easter Show 2016**

This year saw the centenary of Corriedales being exhibited at the Sydney Royal Easter show and as such a tremendous turnout of 100 animals. The college exhibited 14 head in various competitions.

We were fortunate to win Grand Champion Ewe, Champion pen of three animals from the same breeder, best headed Ram, 6 firsts, 5 seconds and 3 thirds in the Corriedale judging against some of the biggest producers in NSW.

In the interschool competition we won Reserve Champion Ewe and Reserve Champion Ram. Sam Prince came second in the Sheep Handler’s competition and we were the Most Successful School Exhibitor in the Meat Sheep Breeds.

Overall, this was another very successful show for the College. The Grand Champion Ewe was commended by all interbreed judges as being a wonderful example of the breed and Geoff Prell (a long time breeder and exhibitor and the person who donated the original Corriedales to the College in 1988) said she was the best Corriedale ewe he had seen (high praise indeed).

Lachlan McLean came first and was awarded the trophy for the Champion Handler in the Merino and Poll Merino Handler’s competition conducted over four days during the Merino showing. Congratulations on a tremendous win.

**Congratulations to Mr Stefanski and the boys who represented the College at the Show.**

**Adrian Harrison, Agriculture Coordinator**