Headmaster’s News

Dear Members of the St Gregory’s Family,

In a recent Gospel of John, he focuses on Mercy. This year being the Year of Mercy, I thought that it was something that we should be reminded of. I think in the minds of students, especially those who have been caught out, it should mean that there are no consequences for their actions if one was really going to be merciful. I think at times we can miss the point of mercy. Yes, it is about forgiveness and helping others who can’t help themselves and these days there are so many areas where people need support and understanding. In the case of the student who has made a mistake, yes one can be merciful in doing out consequences as, in many cases, the student realises that he is in the wrong and is sorry for making the mistake. We all make mistakes and we all expect the person who we have upset to be generous in their mercy towards us but would we do the same for them?

It is the month of May, a time when we pray the Rosary as it is the prayer to Mary. The students are encouraged to meet in the Chapel each Monday at lunchtime to say a decade the rosary.

Mrs Persian

Mrs Persian passed away on the Monday of the second week of the holidays after a long battle with illness. The funeral was held at the College last week with many people in attendance. A representation of the College was present to sing the Sub Tuum and form a guard of honour to farewell her. A large number of ex-students were also in attendance and added to the guard of honour. The family were very appreciative of everyone’s efforts to attend and farewell Mrs Persian.

Welcome

Welcome to the following gentlemen: Lachlan Roberts, Lucas Chown, Zachary Abercrombie and their families who have joined the College this term. Hopefully they will find the experience of being part of the College community beneficial and positive.

Anzac Day

Thank you to those young men who joined together to march on ANZAC Day in Queen Street. I am sure that other students marched in their respective areas as well and also attended Dawn Services. We had over seventy students dressed in their winter uniform and looking resplendent. I was impressed with how the senior boys looked after the junior boys who were struggling with the heat.

We held our own ANZAC Assembly last Friday in the College Hall. Johnathon Morthen of Year 12 did an excellent job of organising the Assembly and gave some definition to it. He organised different uniforms to show the different time periods and developed a script to go with each uniform which gave each uniform a human perspective. Thanks to Mr Greg Warren, MP, for his attendance and for informing the College of his story.

Blue and Maroon Weekend

A lot of work has gone into the planning of the Art Exhibition for the Blue and Maroon weekend. There will be a cocktail party on the Friday evening to open the Art Show with our resident artist in attendance. The Blue and Maroon Ball will take place on the Saturday evening in the Brother Luke Hall. It will be a memorable weekend with the Rugby Union and Soccer games being played at home on the Saturday. This will allow people to visit the Art Exhibition throughout the weekend attend the Cocktail Party, watch some great sport and dance the night away at the Evening Ball. If you look on the website, you will find details on how to purchase tickets. I would commend this weekend to everyone who is associated with the College as it is one of our 90th Celebrations.

College Uniform

Thank you to the parents for your support in ensuring that the students have their winter uniform for the commencement of Term 2. I could not help but be impressed with the way in which the boys are wearing their uniforms in various forums.

Parent Teacher Day and Evening Weekend

The weekend commences on Friday 13 May with the Parent Teacher Day/Evening in the Brother Luke Hall, followed by the sport on Saturday at the College, Boarding Mums’ High Tea during the afternoon, Mass at 6.00pm in the College Chapel, the Boarding Parents’ Cocktail Evening and then the conclusion of the Parent/Teacher on the Sunday morning. It promises to be an exciting weekend!

We have an exciting term ahead with a large number of activities taking place along with the usual teaching and learning processes.

Quae Seminaveris Metes.

Damien Millar

Headmaster
Mission

An important part of being people of Christian faith is to be people of action for justice. During the recent school holidays, I was able to accompany students of St Gregory’s who represented us at two significant events in the local area. Both events were commemorative events, the first being the 200th anniversary of the Appin Massacre and the second being the ANZAC Day March in Campbelltown.

Commemorative events allow us as a community to look on events of history. Sometimes this is with gratitude, sometimes with sorrow, but always with a great sense of respect for the real people who were involved. 200 years after the Appin event, we are able to look back with sorrow and regret for the past policies of governments which showed little or no understanding or appreciation of the people who were involved. Reflecting on past wars, we are also able to look back with sorrow and regret on the number of lives, particularly of young men, which were sacrificed. However, we can also meet in gratitude for the successes of the Reconciliation process and the willingness of our current governments to listen and respond to the needs of our Aboriginal people. We can meet in gratitude for the security of our nation as a result of the men and women who fought for us in conflicts. It is their sacrifice which has enabled all of us to live in the peace and harmony which we are privileged to experience.

I congratulate the large number of St Greg’s students who realise the need for justice and reflection and were present at these services.

During the Month of May, a decade of the Rosary will be prayed in the chapel each Monday at lunchtime. As a Marist College, our devotion to Mary is important and all students are invited to join us for this time of prayer.

Cathie Clarke, 
Director of Mission/RE Coordinator

Year 9 News

Departing in a bus full of tired but excited students at seven in the morning. This was the start of a wonderful day, filled with fun and adventure for the Year Nine group. Heading down on 2nd May to Wedderburn Christian Campsite for a brilliant activity day.

Working with others, other than our immediate close friends, we were met with many challenges on the day, which pushed us to work as a team using cooperation, listening and talking skills to complete initiative tasks set by the wonderful staff at Wedderburn Christian Campsite. We were encouraged to undergo a series of challenging tasks which to some of us seemed near impossible to complete.

Whether it was swinging from fifteen metres in the air over a cliff or zipping down a flying fox, climbing high on the rock walls or abseiling down a wall, Year Nine were encouraged not only by the staff but by our mates to give everything a go. The day wouldn’t have been complete without a little bit of rivalry and competition between the students and teachers in activities like archery and laser skirmish, and a few games of basketball and volleyball at recess and lunch.

All in all, students and teachers had a great time in Wedderburn. We wish to thank our homeroom teachers and the staff at the campsite for a stupendous day.

Arriving back in a bus of tired but content students. This was the ending to our wonderful day, filled with fun and adventure for our Year Nine group.

Gabriel Bondal Dagami and William Limbrey
on behalf of Year 9
Student Profiles

Congratulations to the following students for their achievements as shown:

Christopher Seton  
(Year 7)  
Competition for MCS Swimming  
Team and qualified for NSW  
All School Championship

Mark Perich  
(Year 10)  
Competition for MCS Swimming  
Team and qualified for NSW  
All School Championship

Declan Grohala  
(Year 11)  
Competition for MCS Swimming  
Team and qualified for NSW  
All School Championship  
Won in Butterfly and  
Breaststroke at CCC Swimming

Nicholas Duncan  
(Year 10)  
Won 3 Bronze Medals and came 2nd in C Division of Australian Clay Target  
Association National Event

Benjamin Quinnell  
(Year 7)  
Up and Coming Trumpeter

Johnathon Morthen  
(Year 12)  
Coordinator of ANZAC Day Assembly

Mark Perich  
(Year 10)  
Competition for MCS Swimming  
Team and qualified for NSW  
All School Championship

Teaching and Learning

NAPLAN Tests for Years 7 and 9 Students

NAPLAN Tests for all students in Years 7 and 9 will be held next week. The schedule is:

- Tuesday 10 May: Language Conventions and Writing  
- Wednesday 11 May: Reading  
- Thursday 12 May: Numeracy

Lessons 2 and 3  
Lessons 1 and 2  
Lessons 1 and 3

All students must have a B or 2B pencil, a pencil sharpener and a clean eraser.

The full Teaching and Learning report with information regarding Study Skills Programme for Years 7 and 10 and Holiday Programmes Available for Gifted and Talented Students can be found on the website at Teaching and Learning.

Catherine Keegan,  
Director of Teaching and Learning
TERM 2 – WEEK 2

NATIONAL MARIST BASKETBALL CARNIVAL
During the school holidays our First Grade Basketball team participated in the National Marist Basket Carnival hosted by St Joseph’s College, Hunters Hill. In the initial Pool games St Greg’s finished equal 1st with four wins and a loss, however the for and against results left the team in 3rd place where they would compete for the Plate Division of competition. Despite the loss in the Plate Division Grand Final the team completed the Championship in 10th place from 24 teams with six wins and two losses. This was our best finish in many years. Thanks is extended to the many students, staff and parents who attended and supported the team. A very, big congratulations to the players, Team Manager, Miss Burke, and Coach, Mr Limbrey.

MCS FOOTBALL (SOCCER) AND RUGBY LEAGUE COMPETITIONS
Round 4 of the MCS Football weekly competition against Dundas resulted in four wins and a draw.

The first week of the MCS Rugby League competition resulted in six wins and four losses.

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS
CCC Swimming representatives: Declan Grohala (Year 11) Mark Perich (Year 10) and Chris Seton (Year 7) successfully competed for the MCS team and have qualified for the NSW All Schools Championship. Declan had an outstanding CCC Carnival winning the 17 years 100m Butterfly, 50m Butterfly and 100m Breaststroke; placing second in the 200m IM; third in the 50m Breaststroke and qualifying for the 200m Breaststroke.

Individual success for Nicholas Duncan (Year 10) who participated in the National Event at the Australian Clay Target Association, winning 3 Bronze Medals in ‘C’ Division and coming in 2nd place overall.

Following the final MCS Trial Marcus Lymberis has been selected to the Open Football (Soccer) team to contest the CCC Championship this Term.

Cameron Cotter and Ethan Debono (Year 9) were both selected in the U15 NSW Cricket Academy for 2016/2017.

Joseph Lantz, Sports Coordinator

The full sports report can be found in the News section of the College website.

2016 Western Front Tour

During the April school holidays, 33 boys and four staff travelled to Europe on the 2016 Western Front Tour. Over the course of two weeks, the tour covered key points in History ranging from the Battle of Hastings (The Bayeux Tapestry) and the Norman Conquest (Tower of London) to the twentieth century (The Western Front in World War I to the beaches of Normandy in World War II).

Covering five countries in 15 days, the boys excelled themselves in navigating airports, hotels and loading the coach. It was, however, the way in which they represented St Gregory’s College at the moving Menin Gate Last Post Ceremony and at our own commemorative service at Villers Bretonneux, that really stood out. Our guides, hotels and other members of the public spoke often of how respectful our boys were and we were very proud of the way in which they conducted themselves throughout the tour.

(Photos of this tour can be found in the Galleries section of the College website.)

The College conducts an annual History tour in April of each year. In 2017, the tour will be to Cambodia and Vietnam. Details regarding this tour can be obtained from Mrs Murdoch in the HSIE Department.

Megan Murdoch, HSIE Coordinator

An Offer Too Good to Refuse!!

The Marist Brothers at St Gregory’s College have some furniture looking for a new home:

7 ‘leather’ lounge chairs and 1 three seater sofa.

Some, or all of these, can be yours for free. If you are interested send a note to Br Ernest with your son—state which items you want and how I can contact you. Photos can be found on the College website at Brothers.

Br Ernest