Dear Members of the St Gregory's Family,

Last Sunday we saw Christ appear to the Apostles on the Road to Emmaus. Christ was walking with them but they didn’t recognise him. It wasn’t until they sat down to break bread together that they recognised him. How many times do we not recognise people when they come to help us? In times of trouble we know that we have our relationship with God to nurture and keep growing but we also have a lot of practical help in the way of family and the people we work with. We only have to ask for help and many people will generously give it. Each of us also has to be aware of the people around us and we have to look outside ourselves and see what we can do to help others. There are many opportunities such as doing collections for the likes of St Vincent de Paul or participating in the Claymore Homework Club, to name but two, but closer to home, we can open our eyes to the people around us.

Welcome

Welcome back to the College for Term 2 and hopefully everyone returned relaxed and refreshed for a short Term but one full of activity.

It will be a busy Term with many activities still taking place but in slightly different formats and/or venues due to the building of the Hall. The Champagnat Day Mass will be held at Mt Carmel on Wednesday 4 June commencing at 9.30 am. The other big event for the College will be the Family Weekend which takes place on 16, 17 and 18 May. The Parent Teacher Interviews will be held in the classrooms this year and all the Saturday activities for our Boarding Families will go ahead in the normal venues. Letters have been emailed to parents in relation to the respective events.

ANZAC Day

I was very proud to be a part of the College representation on ANZAC Day to be witness to the young men who took the time to be part of the ANZAC Day March in Queen Street. Considering the little communication that the College had with the gentlemen of the College about participating in the March, I was most impressed with the number of students who took part especially the number of senior students. The boys looked so well presented in their winter uniform and walked tall. I have also been reminded that many boys could not participate in the ANZAC Day March at Campbelltown due to distance and other commitments but it was pleasing to hear about a family from Hillston marching in the College Uniform and the Air Force Cadets from Camden participating in their own local Marches. Thank you to all the parents who accompanied their sons on ANZAC Day. It was also interesting to note the number of boys who wore family medals and who were able to inform me of the history and nature of the medals.

Activities

Many of our winter activities are now well under way with some great results for the College and the individuals participating in them. The Sydney Show results were outstanding this year with the College coming away with many ribbons. The Debating season is in full swing with the College winning all debates (11/12) last Friday with one exception. Rugby Union is well underway with the first competition game due on 24 May against Oakhill at the College. MCS Soccer and League are moving into the fifth and second rounds respectively. It is pleasing to see so many parents being present at the various activities supporting their sons.

I would like to thank the parents that assisted with the Saturday Rugby Union Barbeque. The College had a generous response from parent volunteers and the many that just turned up on the day, it is most appreciated.

I look forward to seeing everyone over the next couple of weeks at the Family Weekend.

Quae Seminaveris Metes.

Damien Millar
Headmaster
Mission

During the school holidays the Church celebrated the most significant time in its calendar, Holy Week and in particular the Resurrection on Easter Sunday. It is inspiring and encouraging to hear the boys on their return talk about the time they put aside to be a part of the liturgies in their Parishes, along with their families.

Also in the holidays was the commemoration of ANZAC and on the Monday of our return to school we joined together in prayer and remembrance for all those who have died and suffered in war right up to the present. Jack McNally of Year 11 was one of the young men who participated in the Western Front tour and he presented the reflection for this liturgy, a part of which follows:

"We are the future of our country. We are the future of this world...it is our duty to ensure that the names of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the past to guarantee us this future liveth for evermore...Everything these men did was for us. For our freedom. For our protection. For our future. Their sacrifice is the reason we are who we are today and that our country is the amazing place that it is...Lest we forget."

Again, we are inspired by the words and the thoughts of our students.

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 8 News

On Friday 4 April Year 8 along with their homeroom teachers travelled to Stanwell Tops to participate in the “Boys to Men” retreat day. The boys had an enjoyable day and it was great to see them so enthusiastic about the challenges that faced them. The activities required courage and teamwork and Year 8 displayed these qualities abundantly.

Without doubt the highlight of the day was the way Year 8 conducted themselves. The spirit, participation and maturity displayed by the boys was commendable and I would like to thank them for making it such a pleasant day. A particular thank you to the Year 8 Homeroom team, as the success of the day is due to your continued commitment and enthusiasm towards our boys.

Miss Loren Keir, Year 8 Coordinator

For the full story and photos go to year-8-news.

Western Front Tour

39 students and 5 staff began the trip of a lifetime on the first day of last holidays, exploring where past generations had fought on the Western Front. The journey began in Brussels, Belgium (via Singapore and Frankfurt) and concluded 12 days later in Paris, France.

The trip included many highlights including being involved in the Last Post Ceremony in Ypres to running our own ANZAC Service at the Australian National Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux. The group also had a chance to visit the beautiful cities of Brugges, Arras and Paris, including visits to Versailles, the Eiffel Tower and the magnificent Sacre Coeur and also Notre Dame Cathedral.

I would like to mention the amazing job done by Mrs Murdoch. The boys now have a lifetime memory due to the vision of Mrs Murdoch and the level of detail she has put into the planning of each minute of the trip. Students, staff and parents owe her a debt of gratitude.

To read the daily blog go to: http://stgregswft2014.wordpress.com/

Matthew Brennan,
Deputy Headmaster

The full version of this report and photos can be found at western-front-tour.
Student Profiles

Congratulations to Brandon Prince (Year 11), Will Cadden (Year 9), Nathan Calman (Year 11), Declan Grohala (Year 9), Mitchell Austin (Year 12) and Aidan Smith (Year 10) on their successes as shown below.

Brandon Prince, Year 11
State Champion
Merino Judging
Sydney Royal Easter Show

Will Cadden, Year 9
1st Place in Sheep Parading
Sydney Royal Easter Show

Nathan Calman, Year 11
Selected in NSW All Schools Team for Diving

Declan Grohala, Year 9
Finalist in
Australian National Age Championship—Swimming

Mitchell Austin, Year 12
Selected in NSW All Schools Open Baseball Team

Aidan Smith, Year 10
Earned Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do

Teaching and Learning

YEAR 7-10 EXAMS
Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 students will sit for exams commencing May 26 (Week 5). Could I ask for your support in ensuring that your son attends all exams? While I understand there will be times when a student cannot attend due to illness, it is difficult for the boys when they have to sit exams at another time. On a practical level, there may not be time for them to complete exams due to report deadlines.

YEAR 10 EXAMS /SENIOR SUBJECT SELECTION
Year 10 students should note that these exams will be used to help inform decisions regarding subject selection for Year 11 2015 as decisions re subjects need to be made well in advance of the final exams in November. This is important for all students but particularly those seeking access to more difficult courses such as Advanced and Extension English, Mathematics and Mathematics Extension 1, Physics, Chemistry, Economics and Software Design and Development.

Year 10 students will need a medical certificate if they are absent from an exam. The certificate must cover the entire period of the absence and students must be ready to sit for the missed exam on the day of their return to school.

STUDY SKILLS PROGRAMME
Our Year 7 and 10 students took part in the Study Skills sessions with Prue Salter on May 6.

Catherine Keegan,
Director of Teaching and Learning

Go to Teaching and Learning Update for the full Teaching and Learning report.
MARIST BASKETBALL CARNIVAL
Was held in Sale, Victoria at the end of Term 1. St Gregory’s placed 11th out of 20 teams. Congratulations to coach, Mr Cook, and the team.

GIO SCHOOLBOY RUGBY LEAGUE COMPETITION
St Gregory’s will play Illawarra Sports High School at 4pm on Tuesday 13 May at Campbelltown Sports Stadium. We encourage all students, families and friends to come along to support the team.

CCC SWIMMING CARNIVAL
Congratulations to our nine students who competed in the CCC Swimming Carnival at Homebush Aquatic Centre on Tuesday 29 April.

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS
Congratulations to Mitchell Austin (Year 12), Mitchell Jason and Nathan Calman (Year 11) and Logan Whitelaw, Declan Grohala and Samuel Villata (Year 9) on their representative selections.

Joseph Lantz, Sports Coordinator

For details of these and to see the full sport report, go to sports-report.