Dear Members of the St Gregory’s Family,

Last Sunday was Pentecost Sunday, the time when the apostles were gathered in a room, too frightened to go out and spread the good news. When the Holy Spirit descended upon them it gave them the courage to go forward and do so. I am sure it was helpful that they were all there together and received the Holy Spirit at the same time as there is strength in numbers. It is always possible to meditate, reflect and pray by ourselves in order to gain strength, and this can be essential at times, but it is also uplifting when we are together in numbers and gain strength from those numbers. People tell me that they find it very uplifting to attend mass in the College Chapel as they find the singing uplifting as well as being in a place of worship that is full.

The strange thing about being in numbers is that it does not always give strength because we can witness people being made to feel uncomfortable and we are not prepared to stand up and make a statement about that and that what is occurring is wrong. I believe that the main reason is because we are not strong enough in ourselves and therefore do not wish to put ourselves in a position where one could become the target. We should look to gain strength from our relationship with Christ that would hopefully give us the courage, the same as the apostles, to speak out for those who need our support. If more people had the strength and the courage to stand together maybe, we would be living in a stronger and more just community.

Blue and Maroon Weekend

A reminder about the Blue and Maroon Weekend on the weekend of 27 May. A group of parents has been working all year towards this weekend in order to make it a celebration befitting 90 years at the College. The Art Show was a tradition at the College for so many years and the committee believed that it was timely to host it again this year. We are fortunate to have as our resident artist, Danielle Mate Sullivan, a parent. Her work is known outside Australia as she has just returned from America where she has had the President of the USA buying some of her work. She has some amazing paintings to display over the weekend and one should not miss this opportunity to see her in action. I am sure that our young men could learn a lot about art, by watching her at work.

The weekend commences with a Cocktail evening on the Friday (27 May) to open the Art Show. The Art Show will be open on Saturday 28 May and again on Sunday 29 May. There will be a large number of our own students’ paintings on display as well as other prominent artists from the local area.

The Blue and Maroon Ball will take place on Saturday (28 May) in the Brother Luke Hall. I am sure that it will be a wonderful evening as I know a lot of planning has gone into ensuring a successful evening. The booking forms for tickets can be found on the College Website. I am sure the committee would appreciate your support over the weekend at the Art Show and the Blue and Maroon Ball.

Family Weekend

The Family Weekend was held last weekend and it was very successful from all accounts especially for those people who had not experienced it before. Thank you to the many parents who supported their sons with their academic pursuits by their attendance at the Parent Teacher Days/Evenings. Thank you to the parents who were able to support the High Tea on the Saturday in the Donovan Room. Thank you to those parents who helped with the BBQ last Saturday for without your support, we could not offer the service that we do. Thank you to the many parents who supported the Cocktail Evening on Saturday as it gave new parents the opportunity to get to know other boarding parents and some of the staff. Hopefully, everyone found the weekend enjoyable and beneficial.

Quae Seminaveris Metes.

Damien Millar
Headmaster
Mission

May is the month when the Universal Catholic Church celebrates Mary as its most significant female figure. I’m not sure whether the date for Mother’s Day was chosen to align with this or whether it’s just coincidence, but how lovely for all women to be acknowledged and celebrated alongside Mary.

As a Marist school in particular, this month is most significant as we celebrate the role that Mary played as the first disciple of the Church and as a model to all of us, male or female, to act with gentleness, modesty and simplicity.

At our Mums and Sons liturgy the young men of Year 7 prayed in thanksgiving for their Mums as models of God’s unconditional love for us. They recognised that the role of a Mother reflects the role that God plays in their lives.

We demonstrated these qualities with the Colours of Motherhood:

- **Red** is the colour of energy and action. It reflects Mums as ambitious and always doing the best for their children.
- **Yellow** is the colour of the sun. It reflects the optimism and cheerfulness of our Mums.
- **Green** is the colour of nature and growth as our Mums make sure we grow to be strong physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.
- **Blue** is the colour of trust and peace. It represents the loyalty and integrity of our Mums.
- **Pink** is perhaps the most important of all – it is the colour of unconditional love and nurturing.

In this month of May, we maintain our devotion to Mary through prayer, particularly the Rosary, and we remind ourselves of the value of the women in our lives.

Cathie Clarke, 
Director of Mission/RE Coordinator

Year 7 News

Mums and Sons Breakfast and Liturgy

The day was a great success, especially if the number of mothers that attended is anything to go by. The boys did themselves and their mothers proud with the way they served the breakfast dishes.

The next part of the day saw the mothers invited to their son’s homeroom where they were given a card that expressed the emotions of their son.

The last component of the morning was a liturgy in the Chapel that was surely tested for capacity as there may have been only two seats available. Students who did readings and special messages as well as all the leaders of the ceremony were extremely confident and showed a maturity above their years.

I hope that all the mothers enjoyed themselves and were treated equally as well on the Sunday.

Thank you to those mums who attended and helped make this event so enjoyable.

Stephen Hartnett, Year 7 Coordinator

Photos of this event can be found in Galleries
Student Profiles

Congratulations to the following students for their achievements as shown:

Marcus Bombardiere  
(Year 9)  
Won Rostrum Voice of Youth Regional Final and now progresses to State Final

Sam Hackett  
(Year 12)  
Won Rostrum Voice of Youth Regional Final and now progresses to State Final

William Buckley  
(Year 7)  
Selection to the NSW Schools Golf team to compete at the National Championships in November

Lachlan McInerney  
(Year 7)  
Selected as Guest Speaker for Youth Leadership District Conference

Frank Lopresti  
(Year 12)  
Semester 1 Exams Excellent Effort

Richard Bahamondes  
(Year 12)  
Semester 1 Exams Excellent Effort

Teaching and Learning

YEAR 7-10 EXAMS
All Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 students will sit for exams commencing May 30 (Week 6). 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 2017 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.

As outlined in an earlier newsletter, 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 WEBSITE
A reminder that all students are able to access study support through the Study Skills website.

Learn more about how to improve your results and be more efficient and effective with your schoolwork by working through the units on www.studyskillshandbook.com.au.

Our school’s subscription details to www.studyskillshandbook.com.au are -
Username: forstgregsonly
Password: 60results

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

**MCS Football (Soccer) and Rugby League Competitions**

The MCS Football competition against the very strong Marist College Eastwood resulted in three wins, two draws and three losses. The winning teams were Year 8A 5-0, Seconds 3-1 and Firsts 1-0 on the last kick in the game. Year 7B and Year 9 had 1-1 draws.

During Week 3 a strong performance against St John Paul II Catholic College Schofield resulted in five wins, one draw and one loss. An 11-0 win to the 1st Grade team was highlighted with three goals each to Iain Carlise and Christian Iriarte.

Further wins went to our Year 9, Year 8B, Year 7A and Year 7B teams with a nil all draw to Year 8A. Seconds had a bye.

A very successful Round 3 of the MCS Rugby League competition resulted in eight wins and two losses. Winning teams were 1st Grade, 2nd Grade, 3rd Grade, 4th Grade, 15 years A, 15 years B, 14 years A and 13 years A. The highlight game of the round would be the 42-0 win by our 1st Grade against Penrith.

**Joseph Lantz**, Sports Coordinator

The full sports report, including Representative Honours, can be found in the News section of the College website.

Nic White (Class of 2009) is currently playing professional rugby in France for Montpellier after seven successful years with the ACT Brumbies and the Wallabies. Last weekend Montpellier played in the Grand Final of the European Challenge Cup against the Harlequins from London. The game was played in Lyon, France.

Nic started at halfback and after a gripping match Montpellier held on to win 26-19 with Nic playing very strongly. Congratulations to Nic on this fine achievement.

**Matthew Brennan**, Deputy Headmaster

**Reminder from the Canteen**

Cut off time for ordering is 9.00am.

Flexi school orders cannot be made direct to Tuckshop.

**Freedom Stories**

Ordinary people caught up in extraordinary circumstances

A new film featuring the story of ‘boat people’ who are now Australian citizens.

A flyer with details is in the News section of the College website.

The next FAMILY MASS at St Anthony’s Church, Tahmoor, is on Saturday, 21 May at 5.00pm (note the Winter Time).

Share the joy of Mass, sing and clap along with the vibrant music, and get into the spirit of the Liturgical Dance and enjoy the refreshments after Mass.

Nic (left) with fellow Australian Jesse Mogg and the Challenge Cup trophy.

**Other News**

**AIEF-GO FOUNDATION EVENT AT GREG’S**

The AIEF (Australian Indigenous Education Foundation) and the GO Scholarship program (Adam Goodes and Michael O’Loughlin) supports 34 of our Indigenous students with additional funding, programs and events, in the senior years particularly. On Wednesday 11 May a special event was held at the College for the junior students to introduce them to the AIEF aims and programs. Several AIEF staff members came out to meet and chat to the boys. Special guests were Adam Goodes and Michael O’Loughlin who conducted games activities and then spoke to the boys about their own stories and the difficulties that boys face being away from home and family. Their key message was the need for RESILIENCE – push on through all the difficulties because the end result will be well worth while. Both Adam and Michael were very generous with their time and posed for many photos with both Indigenous and non-Indigenous boarders after dinner.

The AIEF plans for events such as this to become an annual occurrence.

**Julie Harmour**, Aboriginal Liaison Officer

**Parents and Friends 90 Year Celebrations**

**Friday 27 May** 7pm-10pm

Official Opening of the Art Show Cocktail Party

@ $15 a head

**Saturday 28 May** 7pm-11pm

Maroon and Blue Parents Ball

@ $95 a head

**Saturday 28 and Sunday 29**

May 10am-3pm in the Br Luke Hall and Donovan Room:

**Sports News**

**TERM 2 – WEEK 4**

**MCS FOOTBALL (SOCCER) AND RUGBY LEAGUE COMPETITIONS**

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