Dear Members of the St Gregory's Family,

The topic of gratitude is not something that always comes readily to mind. I was reflecting on the Psalms recently and I came across one that stressed the need for gratitude; to thank God for what we have. It is very easy to reflect on our own lives with worry or strain, especially when we listen to stories like the budget being a problem for everyone and that we are not happy with decisions made by our present government; or the fact that the washing has been done and put on the clothesline and then it rains; or we are under stress to get an assignment done and there is not enough time to complete it or we do something without thinking and have to face the consequences. On reflection, are these major problems in our lives? Watching the news this morning I saw devastating floods in Eastern Europe with people being pulled out of the first storey of their home because the water was rising so quickly that the whole house might be engulfed. Watching the problems occurring in Nigeria where a large number of school girls have been abducted and looking at the anguish on the mothers’ faces pleading for their release. People who live in a village and who work seven days a week in conditions far worse than what we live in but they are happy as they don’t know anything different.

When one looks at our lifestyle and what our country has to offer, we should be amazingly thankful for what we have. We have just encountered another wonderful weekend with blue skies and unseasonably good weather and yet how often do we stop to say thanks? We have the Rosary on a Monday at lunchtime and this is an opportunity for everyone to stop for a few minutes and recognise that we do have a debt of gratitude and that we should take the time to say thanks.

I wish to relate one story about one of our young men who took the time to think of others recently. He noticed an elderly person struggling with a heavy suitcase and trying to take it up the western stairs at Campbelltown Station. The young man relieved the lady of the bag and carried it up for her and then went on his way. There was no fanfare for this young man, it was just something that he thought he should do and was not looking for any thanks. If this is the calibre of young man that walks out of the gates of the College then I am thankful for what is happening at the College and in the homes of our young men.

Gratitude is a word that we should all be familiar with and something that we practice on a regular basis.

Events at the College

A lot has happened this week with NAPLAN, Parent Teacher Interviews, High Tea, Cocktail Party and Sport. It has been an extremely positive experience and one that has gone very well for the College. Thank you to everyone for your contribution to the weekend whether that be as a parent, student or staff member.

Year 7 2015

The interviews and letters of offer have been sent out this week. Thank you to all members of our College Community for spreading the word about St Gregory’s as we were inundated with applications with the numbers being quite strong.

Paul Dillon

This week Paul Dillon returned to the College to once again speak with the Year 10, 11 and 12 students about drugs and alcohol. Paul Dillon is a leading authority in this area and we were fortunate that we were able to acquire his services once again. You might remember he came last year and spoke to the students, parents and staff. Hopefully he will return again next year and we will have staff and parent sessions as well as the sessions for the students.

Quae Seminaveris Metes.

Damien Millar
Headmaster
Parent/Teacher Interviews

Many thanks to the large numbers of parents who attended this event last Friday and Sunday. Also many thanks to those parents who have completed the survey.

For those still wishing to do so please click on the link: parent/teacher

The survey will close 9am Monday morning.

Initial results from the survey suggest that both venues were acceptable (Hall 42% / Classrooms 37%) and that the online booking system is working extremely well (98%). The timing also seems appropriate (86%). 98% also were happy with the pre-interview information.

A full report will be available in the next newsletter.

Matthew Brennan, Deputy Headmaster

Mission

I recently received a book of resources to help us as a community prepare for Champagnat Week. This is when we will celebrate as a community the life and work of Marcellin Champagnat and his legacy in the work of the Marist Brothers and wonderful formative places like St Gregory’s.

In this year of #serveoneanother, I thought I would share one of these reflections titled “How can I be a better Marist?”:

“The word service conjures up many different ideas. Sometimes we interpret it to mean helping people in need, perhaps after a natural disaster, often it means giving money to help people or organisations; sometimes we think it means to work hard and to sacrifice something of ourselves. On a personal level, we think about how we can make the world a better place, and surely that is what being a Marist is all about. Often however, service can mean a lot less than this. It can be as simple as giving the very best of ourselves to others. It may be as simple as a smile.”

At St Gregory’s, I witness good Marists every day in the relationships I see in the staffroom, in the playground and between staff and students. I witness it in the prayer in the classroom and in the chapel as boys voluntarily turn up for May Rosary.

I hope that the boys are studying for their RE exams, knowing that we can only truly live our faith if we know it and understand it.

Being a good Marist is at the heart of what life is all about – serving others and connecting with others. Through your service to another person, God allows you to be the answer to their prayers.

Cathie Clarke,
Director of Mission/RE Coordinator

Year 7 News

Mums and Sons Breakfast and Liturgy
On Friday 9 May Year 7 students were able to show a small amount of appreciation to their mothers by serving them breakfast and then expressing the importance and special qualities of their mothers. The morning was very well attended and most of the boys were able to let their mother experience their serving skills, a homeroom situation and then finally a performance of Liturgy hymns, and I am sure this may have been the first time some mums had heard their sons sing with such pride. We were blessed with the wonderful weather and our hope was that it was a precursor to a wonderful Mother’s Day the following Sunday.

Parent Teacher Interviews
By now all parents have had an opportunity to have interviews with their son’s teachers and it is hoped that the feedback and the recent Prue Salter Study Skills workshops will help to encourage the students into better study and homework procedures. Examinations will take place in week 5 and students have been supplied with a timetable as to when their exams are on. Good luck with these exams and for the rest of the Term.

Awards
At our next Year meeting I will be presenting blue merit (25 green stamps) awards and academic effort awards to the students.

Stephen Hartnett, Year 7 Coordinator

To view this report with photos go to Year 7 News
Student Profiles

Congratulations to Ned Mulholland (Year 10), Zak Hackett (Year 8), Blake Pace (Year 7), Jack Davey (Year 12), Brent Rushworth (Year 9) and Cameron Lawrence (Year 7) on their successes as shown below.

Ned Mulholland Year 10
Rural Ambassador for Camden Show

Zak Hackett Year 8
1st in Whip Cracking Contest, Camden Show

Blake Pace Year 7
17th Place—2014 BMX Australian National Championships

Jack Davey, Year 12
MCS Open Cross Country Champion and Team Captain

Brent Rushworth Year 9
MCS 15 Years Cross Country Champion

Cameron Lawrence Year 7
MCS 12 Years Cross Country Champion

Teaching and Learning

As we approach the first exam week for Years 7 to 10, a reminder that our school is a subscriber to the study skills website www.studyskillshandbook.com.au.

This website helps students develop essential skills for academic success. There are units of work on topics such as improving time management skills, how to study, research skills, summarising, technology use, brain and memory.

It is a good idea to have a look at the site yourself so you know what topics are covered and what resources are available. Also check out the THINGS TO PRINT page under the MORE menu.

To access the handbook, go to www.studyskillshandbook.com.au and login as a subscriber with these details:

username: forstgtregsonly
password: 60results

Exam Timetables

All students have received an individual hard copy of their examination timetable. Copies are also available on both the College website and on Skyblue.

Catherine Keegan, Director of Teaching and Learning
GIO SCHOOLBOY RUGBY LEAGUE
The First Grade Rugby League team had a wonderful 22-18 win against Illawarra Sports High School in the first round of the GIO Schoolboy competition last week.

MCS CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL
At the MCS Championship last week, our Cross Country team won all major trophies, Junior, Senior and Aggregate; won four Age divisions, 12 years, 15 years, 17 years and Opens; and had three Age Champions.

MCS FOOTBALL AND RUGBY LEAGUE
Our First Grade Football (Soccer) team had an excellent win against Patrician Brothers College, Fairfield 2-1 in the first round of the MCS KO competition.

The College’s Rugby League teams are going really well approaching the Semi Finals. The First Grade, 15 years “A”, 14 years “A” and 13 years “A” teams are undefeated; second place in their competitions are Third Grade, Fourth Grade and 13 years “B”; Second Grade and 14 years “B” are placed fourth and 15 years “B” is placed fifth.

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS
St Gregory’s has had students selected to represent in the sports of Rugby Union, Volleyball and Football.

MANDATORY SAFETY EQUIPMENT
Parents and students are reminded of mandatory safety equipment for sport as follows:

Rugby League / Union – Mouth Guard and strongly recommended are Shoulder Pads and Head Gear
Soccer – Shin Pads and strongly recommended is a Mouth Guard.

Joseph Lantz, Sports Coordinator

To see the full sport report, go to Sport Report

National Sorry Day
Monday May 26 is a special day for Australia’s Indigenous people and Australians everywhere. It is National Sorry Day, held on this date every year since 1998. Thousands of Australians from all walks of life participate in memorial services, commemorative meetings, survival celebrations and community gatherings in honour of the Stolen Generations; those babies and young children forcibly removed from their families and communities and put into foster care.

The grief, suffering and loss suffered by the children and their families had a profound impact which continues to this day.

On Monday Harrison Cotterall and Kobi Pierson from Year 11 are going with Ms Harmour to represent the College at a special Sorry Day service at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Minto. They will place a College candle in sacred space there and perform a song about healing, inner strength and friendship – values close to all our hearts.

It is important that the true history of Australia is taught and understood. The commemoration of National Sorry Day each year helps contribute to a broader ongoing effort toward healing and the social and emotional wellbeing for individuals, families and communities across the country.

Julie Harmour
Aboriginal Liaison Officer

Spirit Alive Youth Gathering
Saturday 14 June 2014 5pm—9pm
For Year 9 to 35 years

Don’t miss Wollongong Diocese Spirit Alive Festival being held at Holy Spirit College, Bellambi (entry via Kent Street). We are very fortunate this time to be joined by Sam Clear, a young man who journeyed 25,600 km on foot around the world for unity. His tale is one of extraordinary courage, challenges and love in action under incredible circumstances. The evening includes a Youth Mass, music led by youth, musicians, dinner, (bring some money for dinner and canteen) and time to connect with other young people from across our Diocese.

Further information about Spirit Alive is available via Catholic Youth Ministry Office in Wollongong on 4222 2464. Proudly presented by Catholic Youth Ministry Wollongong.

www.facebook.com/cymdow

Have you changed address, contact numbers or any other details?

A link is available on our website to a form which can be used for updating Family and/or Medical information. This can be accessed via the Current Families tab. Alternatively, the information can be emailed to the College Registrar:
kate.stott@stgregs.nsw.edu.au