Dear Members of the St Gregory’s Family,

I would ask you to keep in mind Mr Paul Langford and his son, Cort (Year 11) who lost their wife and mother last Monday after a long battle with cancer. I would ask that you keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Feast of St Marcellin Champagnat

The Feast of St Marcellin takes place on Monday 6 June but the College will be celebrating the day on Wednesday 8 June commencing with Mass at 9.00am followed by a day’s activities around the College. The College will announce the Champagnat Awards and Marist Service Awards during the Mass. Parents whose boys will be receiving a Champagnat Award will be notified as soon as the awards have been finalised. All parents and friends of the College are welcome to attend this event.

Before the Black Madonna in the Chapel of Fourvière on 23 July 1816 a small group of young men pledged to found a religious congregation of “Marists”. Their dream became a reality in the foundation of the “Marist” family of religious and lay men and women. Two hundred years later, the Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary, the Marist Brothers of the Schools, the Marist Sisters and the Society of Mary (Fathers and Brothers), together with the many groups of Marist Laymen throughout the world, remember that significant moment of foundation, give thanks for the many blessings received, and recommit themselves to doing Mary’s work in the midst of today’s Church and world.

This is obviously an important year in the life of the Marist family being two hundred years since that small group of men and women took their pledge to found the religious congregation of Marists. Their dream is what we give thanks for today as this is our reality.

College Art Show Cocktail and Market Stalls Weekend and Maroon and Blue Parents Ball

Last weekend, the College held the Art Show and Market Stalls Weekend including the Maroon and Blue Parents Ball as part of the 90th Celebrations. It was a very successful weekend with local artists’ work on display along with our own students’ work. Having Danielle Mate Sullivan as our guest artist was a wonderful experience as she is so talented and that can be seen by just looking at her work. The Opening Cocktail Party for the Art Exhibition was well supported by many parents and friends of the College. Russell Wyer presented the prizes for the exhibition on behalf of Richardson and Wrench who sponsored that part of the exhibition. It was pleasing to see so many visitors over the weekend catching a glimpse of the talent of local artists and our young men in the area of Art.

Many were also able to witness the talent of our band students who performed at the Cocktail evening. The Maroon and Blue Parents Ball was held on Saturday evening in the Brother Luke Hall with over two hundred in attendance. It was a wonderful evening with a sumptuous meal and dancing. It also gave the patrons the opportunity to survey the artistic work of the exhibition during the evening. The devonshire teas were a hit with the patrons during the day on Saturday and Sunday. Congratulations to the committee who have been working on this project since the commencement of the year as they did an outstanding job. They tried to ensure that it was a community project and something that would make everyone feel welcome which I believe they did, just by looking at the numbers of people who ventured through the doors. Thanks to the young men of the College who performed parking duties and offered help in the service area as well as packing up the Art Show on the Sunday.

Activities

It was a busy week last week with a Dance at St Patrick’s on Friday evening as well as Debating at Riverview, followed by Saturday sport against St Augustine’s, followed on Sunday by the Red Shield Appeal and a whip cracking tutorial for interested people. This was after the MCS Cross Country Championships on Thursday in which the College was successful once again. Congratulations in particular to Brent Rushworth who is now standing at five out of five championships. A remarkable feat to win one but to repeat the exercise five times is outstanding. Well done!

Quae Seminaveris Metes.

Damien Millar
Headmaster
Mission

Feast of St Marcellin Champagnat

Marcellin grew up in France. He was born in 1789, the year the French Revolution commenced, a year of turmoil.

A chance visit to the family farm by a priest sowed in Marcellin’s mind and heart the desire to become a priest. It was then that his lack of basic education came against him and he had to work hard to overcome this handicap.

Once Marcellin was ordained, the local Bishop appointed him as curate to a small village named La Valla. It was during this time that Marcellin finally believed God was calling him to found a community of Brothers who would help educate young people.

He soon got to know the local families, visiting them on foot as often as he could. These people could see Marcellin’s love of God and his special devotion to Mary. His enthusiasm was contagious, inspiring others to also become teachers of the faith.

Today’s Marist schools are built on this early tradition, one which continues to enhance school communities.

Each year Marists celebrate the Feast of St Marcellin Champagnat, the founder of the Marist Brothers and the person who inspires educators who seek to live the spirituality of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Marists do this in a variety of ways, such as through prayers, attending a special Mass, learning more about Marcellin or by carrying out a service in his name.

Here at St Greg’s we celebrate with Eucharist and then a carnival day with all profit supporting Marist ministries.

Happy Champagnat Day.

Cathie Clarke,
Director of Mission/RE Coordinator

Pastoral Care News

Mobile Phones

A reminder that students should not have mobile phones on at school. There appears to be an increased number of boys who are taking calls and texts from parents. Should you need to contact your son for any reason, please contact Student Services or your son’s Year Coordinator.

College Regulations on Mobile Phones can be found on page 29 of the Student Diary.

Many thanks for your cooperation.

Matthew Brennan, Deputy Headmaster

Student Absences

The options for parents to report their son’s absence are listed below:

- Phone
- Voicemail
- Email
- Written Note

The parents only need to provide one of the above.

If the student is off for three or more days, their parent or guardian needs to report their son’s absence and provide a medical certificate when returning to school.

P.A.R.T.Y Program @ Liverpool Hospital

Every year the College tries to find new programs that will inspire students to reflect on making wise and safe decisions when exposed to certain situations and help further educate our boys on life experiences that may affect their future.

We were extremely lucky to have the opportunity to visit Liverpool Hospital at the start of this term. 30 students in Years 10 and 11 sat through the P.A.R.T.Y program (Prevent Alcohol and Risk Related Trauma in Youth) run by Head Trauma nurse, Nevenka Francis. The program was amazing as our students were exposed to the day to day running of a Trauma unit. The presentations were not ‘sugar coated’ and our students quickly felt overwhelmed with the images and discussions that the different presenters gave. On hand was the hospital Social Worker to help the students process the information if they felt uncomfortable.

The program was represented by the NSW Police, Ambulance, the Head Brain surgeon at Liverpool Hospital and finally we had a surprise guest speaker Sam Hall, (an old boy from the College). After morning tea, the students were taken on a tour of the Emergency, Trauma and Intensive Care units. It was a confronting experience as we witnessed sick people being treated in the different wards.

Baldino Vetrano, PC Co-ordinator

The full report and photos can be found in the News section of the College website.
Student Profiles

Congratulations to the following students who received 1st place Awards at the College Art Exhibition:

Flynn Fielding (Year 12)
Winner of the Major Award:
Thomas Scott-Dobbie Award for Most Promising Student Artist

Jack Collins (Year 8)
Ernesto Guntan (Year 8)
Jackson Skinner (Year 8)
Carl Rushworth (Year 8)
Robbie Cabungcal (Year 8)

Riley Elias (Year 8)
Jordan Harrington (Year 9)
Blake Pace (Year 9)
Zac Mansour (Year 10)
Sahil Deshmukh (Year 10)

Alexander Huisman (Year 10)
Dominic Paine (Year 11)
Declan Grohala (Year 11)
Joshua Ashkar (Year 11)
Michael Conlon (Year 11)

Teaching and Learning

Subject Selection Year 11 2017
Year 10 parents should have received an email at the end of last week outlining the important dates for subject selection for Year 11 2017. A copy can be found on the College website.

The Information Evening will be held on Wednesday July 20 at 7:30 pm with the Careers Forum being held on the following Wednesday afternoon 27 July from 3.30pm until 5.00pm.

Study Skills
Prue Salter’s Study Skills tips for June cover Proofing Your Assessments and can be found at Teaching and Learning.

Catherine Keegan,
Director of Teaching and Learning

Year 12 News

It has been a busy first half of the term for Year 12. After finishing Term 1 with their half yearly exams, Year 12 have received their reports and had important meetings with classroom teachers in regards to their progress at Parent Teacher Interviews.

Discussions this term have been based around providing encouragement for all students to keep working to achieve the best possible results and not giving in when things become too hard. I trust that all students in Year 12 will find the inner desire to want to do well over the next six months. This will hopefully hold them in good stead for future employment prospects beyond school.

Year 12 students have been leading the way in the Co-curricular area of College life. A large number of boys have played a part in the success of our senior sporting sides so far this season in the sports of Rugby League, Rugby Union and Soccer. Our debaters have also been impressive, with our 12B side undefeated so far this season.

Andrew Jamieson, Year 12 Coordinator
TERM 2 – WEEK 6

MCS CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP
St Gregory’s College convenes the annual MCS Cross Country Championship. Thanks to Mr Greg Bingham, Mr Andrew Jamieson, Mr John Dixon, Mr Stephen Bullock and Mr Luke Albery. Their professional approach and experience makes for such a high quality and smoothly run Carnival. Our two Year 9 PASS classes provided great assistance in supervising the course, assisting at the finish and the recording areas.

Cross Country has been one of our traditionally strong sporting events. In recent years Marist College Eastwood and St Dominic’s College Penrith have strongly challenged for the Championship by winning one or more of the three shields – Junior, Senior or Aggregate. Last year St Gregory’s won all three shields for the first time in many years. This year, in an excellent team effort, St Gregory’s defended all three championship shields. The College won the 14 years, 15 years, 17 years and Open Age Divisions, placed 2nd in 16 years, 4th in 13 years and 5th in 12 years. Congratulations to the team, Coach Mr Mitchell O’Brien and Manager Mr Brendan O’Flynn.

MCS FOOTBALL (SOCCER) AND RUGBY LEAGUE COMPETITIONS
Week 4 of the MCS Football competition against the very strong St Dominic’s College Penrith resulted in four wins, two draws and two losses. Six wins, a draw and three losses continue our good results in this year’s MCS Rugby League competition.

In Week 5 our Rugby League teams had six wins, two losses and two byes, while our Football teams had five wins, two draws and one loss to St Paul’s Greystanes.

Joseph Lantz, Sports Coordinator

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

Stock Whip Making

The Australian stockwhip developed from the English hunting whip and it has been used by Australian cattlemen since the early 1800’s when mustering cattle. Many country shows include whip cracking competitions as part of their programs to give stockmen the opportunity to show off their skills.

On Sunday 29 May, members of the St Gregory’s College Show Team took on the challenge of making their own stock whips. Mr Peter Stower, a Sydney leatherworker, provided the materials and guided the boys through the process, including the challenging four strand plait. The boys will now spend time learning a range of different cracks and look forward to showing off their new skills at future school events and local shows.

Sandra Hackett, Mathematics Teacher

SUSHI will not be available until Term 4