Dear Members of the St Gregory’s College Family,

Today is the Feast day of St Marcellin Champagnat who founded the order known as the Marist Brothers. This order of Brothers was founded in France in the early 1800s and has then spread throughout the world and St Gregory’s is part of that worldwide movement. St Gregory’s has now been in existence for 88 years and we have to thank St Marcellin for having the vision and foresight to send Brothers to foreign lands to establish Marist schools such as St Gregory’s.

One of the characteristics of a Marist Education is “Presence”. St Marcellin strongly believed that for teachers to be successful, they have to get to know their students and immerse themselves in their lives if they are going to be successful in developing the talents of their students. For teachers today, this means that we need to seek to extend our presence through free time, leisure, sports and cultural activities or whatever means offer themselves. It is well known at St Greg’s that staff do try to get to know their students outside the classroom through a wide range of activities. Only last Sunday, a number of staff gave up their Sunday morning to support over 60 students participating in the Red Shield Door Knock Appeal. This is just one example and I know that I could reel off a much longer list. St Marcellin was a man of action and I see this in so many of our staff, non-teaching as well as teaching. The support that the students receive from the staff at our many Eucharistic celebrations is just another example of that word “Presence.”

As mothers and fathers, the sense of presence in our children’s lives is most probably more important today than in previous years just because of the number of challenges that seem to appear in our children’s lives today. The sense of family today needs to be strong if we are going to help and support our children through the challenges of life. When I think of parents on weekends going in numerous directions to get children to a variety of activities, I am always impressed with the resoluteness of parents to make it happen. The time spent in the car to and from the venues and then supporting the children from the sidelines is such a valuable time. Children might not always tell us that they appreciate what is done for them, but they do know that without the presence of parents, life would be even more difficult.

We are very fortunate at this College that there is a great sense of presence especially with the Brother’s Community being here and a number of Brothers being actively involved in a variety of ways with the College Family.

The College is moving towards its ninetieth year and I hope we can develop that sense of presence across the College even further because I believe that this characteristic is one of the most powerful in making our community what it is.

Happy Feast Day!

Quae Seminaveris Metes.

Damien Millar
Headmaster
Champagnat Day

Thank you to Mr Marshall and the community of Mount Carmel Catholic High School for allowing us to celebrate our Feast Day in their school hall. Without the generous support of Mr Marshall, we would have been at the mercy of the weather. Thank you to the Carmelite Fathers for allowing us to use the Retreat Centre as a venue for morning tea after the Mass on Wednesday as this is an important part of our ritual when celebrating events. Thank you to Mrs Clarke and her talented support team for another wonderful celebration of Champagnat Day, particularly when the venue is off site making it more challenging. Thank you to Mrs Quirk and her team for organising the events back at the College on Thursday. Once again this has all been new territory for us as a College and it has been managed well by the people who I have named but also the many people who worked quietly behind the scenes in order to make it all happen.

Champagnat Community Award 2014

Congratulations to Miss Rebecca Burke on being named the Champagnat Community Award recipient for 2014.

Miss Burke works in our Learning Support Department, in Boarding and is very involved with our summer and winter sporting competitions. She always gives generously of her time and is a great supporter of the student who is a struggler, whether that be academically or personally. She does many things behind the scenes to ensure that the boys are safe, confident and well cared for.

She has a wonderful sense of humour which I believe she uses well in her interactions with the students. The boys appreciate what she does for them and as a result have developed positive relationships with her.

A very worthy recipient. Congratulations!

Damien Millar, Headmaster

Mission

Champagnat week is a very special time a St Greg’s. We celebrate not only the life of the founder of the Marist Brothers, St Marcellin Champagnat, but his legacy which has resulted in us, in a school on the other side of the world, hundreds of years later, living what he imagined. As part of our Eucharistic celebration we acknowledge five young men in each Year group who are truly living this vision as young men of strong mind and gentle heart. Congratulations to these Champagnat Award recipients:

Year 7 Certificates: Christian Malone, Lachlan Stewart, Joe Wilkes, Riley Wilson
Year 7 Medallion: Lawson Eva
Year 8 Certificates: Dylan Jan, Aidan Limbrey, Blake Mullin, Harrison White
Year 8 Medallion: David Ryan
Year 9 Certificates: Shannon Jan, Sean Mabin, Kurt Mills, Liam Novak
Year 9 Medallion: Daniel Lowe
Year 10 Certificates: Liam Clarke, Frank Lopresti, Josiah Moehau, Napota Simaika
Year 10 Medallion: Blake Draper
Year 11 Certificates: Tomislav Bazdaric, Ivan Bricic, James Vella, Daniel White
Year 11 Medallion: Liam Storkey
Year 12 Certificates: Henri Commazzetto, Jack Hudson, Luke Hughes, Kieran Longhurst
Year 12 Medallion: Cameron Menzies

What is a fine young Marist man?

He demonstrates a willingness to learn, a joyful manner, a passion for life, compassion for others, an emerging sense of self and faith, a sense of community and a trustworthy nature.

Cathie Clarke, Director of Mission/RE Coordinator
On Wednesday May 14, Year 11 students spent the day experiencing the U Turn the Wheel program. This program is run by the Campbelltown Council, whereby a group of ten people, from many forms of life, come together to educate the students of the Macarthur region, in a bid to reduce the number of young people injured or worse as a result of motor vehicle accidents.

The boys were split into six groups and spent valuable time with police officers, truck drivers, motor car dealers and motor vehicle insurers, giving them a comprehensive look at the many facets associated with motor vehicles and road use.

Pat Newell, Year 11 Coordinator

For full report and photo go to Year 11 News

STUDY SKILLS TIP FOR JUNE – HAVING SET TIMES FOR SCHOOLWORK

Many students when they come home from school end up just waiting until they might ‘feel’ like doing schoolwork, or else they drag the work out over the whole night. A much better way to work is each night have set allocated times for schoolwork, 2-3 half hour blocks. During this time students should do homework first, then work on any assignments or upcoming tests, then use the rest of the time allocated for schoolwork to independent learning activities. All distractions should be removed during this time, so students learn to focus for 20-30 minute blocks of time.

Catherine Keegan, Director of Teaching and Learning

For more information on Study Skills and how to improve your results go to Teaching and Learning news
GIO SCHOOLBOY RUGBY LEAGUE COMPETITION

The next GIO Schoolboy Rugby League game will be against Hills Sports High School on Wednesday 11 June at Campbelltown Stadium. We encourage even more supporters to attend this game. A permission note is available from Student Services.

MCS FOOTBALL AND RUGBY LEAGUE

In Week 4 games against Patrician Fairfield, St Gregory’s Football (Soccer) teams had 4 wins, 2 draws and 2 losses. In last week’s games against Trinity College, Auburn First Grade, Year 10, Year 9 and Year 8 teams won, with the Year 7 team having a draw against their undefeated opponent.

Our Soccer teams have completed the preliminary rounds of the MCS competition with all teams having a BYE this week. We anticipate all eight teams could qualify for the MCS Semi Finals next week.

In Week 4 games of Rugby League, we had five wins from nine games. Last week our Rugby League teams had an early wake-up call to the ability of our opponents for MCS Semi Finals with one win from nine games. Congratulations to the Thirds who had our only win.

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS

Ashleigh Nisbet (Year 12) has been selected to the NSW CCC Open Rugby League team following the CCC Competition where he represented the undefeated MCS team.

Joseph Lantz, Sports Coordinator

To see the full sport report, go to Sports News

Student Leave

5 days or more

If your son is going to be away from the College for a period of five days or more, then you are required to fill in the Application for Exemption from Attendance at School located on the College website: http://www.stgregs.nsw.edu.au/assets/pdf/our_students/APPLICATION_FOR_EXEMPTION_FROM_ATTENDANCE_AT_SCHOOL.pdf

St Gregory’s College and St Patrick’s College Present this year’s Musical:

The Wiz!

Friday 13 and Saturday 14 June 2014

Hosted by St Patrick’s College at Campbelltown. Tickets are on sale now and are available through Trybooking -


Ticket prices are: Adult - $15; Concession - $10; Family - $40 (Two adults and up to four children)

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