Dear Members of the St Gregory’s Family,

In the words of Matthew, “Therefore I tell, do not worry about your life”. Many of us have feelings of fear and worry and some more than others. Some of us have fears about losing our jobs especially in hard economic times and then worry about what the results of that would be for ourselves and our families. The recent floods in Picton would be an example where worry and stress would surface, especially if the water went through one’s house or place of business. We have fears and worries about making mistakes in our lives, particularly if they become public, and what the ripple effect of that can be. We have fears of being criticised as a student by other students and the fear is that we will not fit in or will be laughed at.

Fear and worry is something that we all endure at different times in our lives and it is something that we have to come to terms with. Jesus tells us not to worry about anything. Christ says that he will provide for us. It is up to us to believe in that statement and continue to pray to God throughout our lives. There are many stories where Christ has offered to help us and at times we just don’t see the alternative that he has offered. I noticed recently that a number of the schools have offered to support St Anthony’s, Picton in helping to replace resources that the staff had lost due to the floods. Keep your relationship with Christ through prayer and taking time for reflection and he will guide you.

Feast of St Marcellin Champagnat

Thank you to the many parents and friends who attended the Champagnat Day Mass last Wednesday. It was a wonderful celebration of the Feast day and it was beautifully done once again. Congratulations to all the students who were nominated for the Champagnat Day Awards, this is an honour in itself as only five can be nominated from a class of one hundred and eighty students. Congratulations to the students who received the Champagnat Medallion in the various Year groups. Congratulations to Mrs Sue Dein who was awarded the Community Award for 2016.

Building

The tenders for the new Learning Centre were opened this week and the work will be commencing hopefully during the holidays, for completion by June 2017. The State Priorities Committee visited the College this week to review our application for a grant in order to commence the building of the new Primary Department in 2017. We will have an answer to this question by the end of September hopefully. Traffic engineers have been engaged by the College to look at our internal road system and parking in order to make it more efficient especially with the new western entrance forecasted to be open for 2017.

90th Celebration Mass and Dinner

By now parents and friends of the College should have received a letter and invitation about the 90th celebrations continuing on the Feast of St Gregory on Friday 2 September. The Mass will be celebrated at the College at 9.00am and the Dinner will be held at the Catholic Club commencing at 6.30pm. I would encourage all members of the College community to support this once in a life time event.

Quae Seminaveris Metes.

Damien Millar
Headmaster
Mission

Each year at our Mass for the feast of Marcellin Champagnat, the founder of the Marist Brothers, the Champagnat Award is awarded to five boys from each Year group. This award recognises young men who demonstrate a strong mind and gentle heart in their interactions with students / teachers and peers. This is not an award for popularity, academic excellence or sporting achievement, but an award recognising a boy who demonstrates one or many of the following characteristics:

◊ Willingness to learn  ◊ Trustworthy nature
◊ Joyful manner  ◊ Accepting of all others
◊ Passion for life  ◊ Respected by peers and adults
◊ Compassion for others  ◊ Exemplary manners
◊ Emerging sense of self and faith  ◊ Appreciative of the gifts and talents of others
◊ A sense of community

Congratulations to the young men who were recognized this year:

Year 7
- Riley Anderson
- Zac Braithwaite
- Fraser Eva
- Sean Fitzgerald
- Lachlan McInerney

Year 8
- Simon Axisa
- Leon Houghton
- Daniel Sicliano
- Lachlan Vella
- Michael Zappia

Year 9
- Kyle Alvarez
- Isaiah Antpohler
- Anthony Bucca
- Daniel Hand
- Matthew Mitchell

Year 10
- Cameron Bowden
- Mark Perich
- Jacob Rochecousté
- Jack Wallace
- Harrison White

Year 11
- Jack Alcorn
- Joshua Ashkar
- Giordano Sprock
- Miguel Tamondong
- Isaac White

Year 12
- Kolia Aigaga
- Will Bottom
- Bradon Clissold
- Brad Rego
- Jonathan Talamaivao

We would describe these recipients as fine young men with no hesitation.

Cathie Clarke, Director of Mission/RE Coordinator

Year 11 News

Term 2 has certainly been a busy one for the boys of Year 11. Having now had a solid opportunity to understand the demands of senior education, the boys have gone through a complete range of assessment tasks for all areas of their learning. The reports that they will receive at the end of next week will allow them to review what is working for them and what needs to be adjusted in order to reach their full potential.

Goal setting has been a major focus of our pastoral care programme with the emphasis being placed on short term goals. Amongst this we had the opportunity to witness a presentation from Brainstorm Productions called “Wired” which gave the boys the chance to see a drama in which a number of scenarios played out and displayed ways in which people react and make choices that lead to positive outcomes.

In May, we had the annual visit from the group who run the ‘U Turn the Wheel’ program. This was a marvellous day with many boys recounting any number of positive outcomes as a result. The program is designed to show students many facets of what is required when buying and driving a motor vehicle and safe use of the roads.

Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday, before we return and prepare for the HSC Preliminary exams at the end of Term 3.

Pat Newell, Year 11 Coordinator
Congratulations to the following Champagnat Medallion recipients:

Fraser Eva  
(Year 7)

Daniel Siciliano  
(Year 8)

Daniel Hand  
(Year 9)

Harrison White  
(Year 10)

Isaac White  
(Year 11)

William Bottom  
(Year 12)

Teaching and Learning

Semester 1 Reports

Semester 1 reports for students in Years 7 to 11 will be issued at 2.45 pm on 24 June, the final day of Term. All students will be awarded an overall grade from A to E that reflects their achievement across all tasks in semester 1. It is important to note that grades are awarded based on all tasks completed, both formal and informal, while the marks awarded reflect only the formal assessment tasks. The marks do not determine the final grade awarded.

The Common Grade Scale describes performance at each of five grade levels.

A The student has an extensive knowledge and understanding of the content and can readily apply this knowledge. In addition, the student has achieved a very high level of competence in the processes and skills and can apply these skills to new situations.

B The student has a thorough knowledge and understanding of the content and a high level of competence in the processes and skills. In addition, the student is able to apply this knowledge and these skills to most situations.

C The student has a sound knowledge and understanding of the main areas of content and has achieved an adequate level of competence in the processes and skills.

D The student has a basic knowledge and understanding of the content and has achieved a limited level of competence in the processes and skills.

E The student has an elementary knowledge and understanding in few areas of the content and has achieved very limited competence in some of the processes and skills.

Catherine Keegan, Director of Teaching and Learning
Sports Events

20 June
- CCC Team Tennis Championship

20-21 June
- CCC Open Basketball Tournament—Penrith

23 June
- MCS Football and Rugby League Grand Finals

TERM 2 – WEEK 8

GIO SCHOOLBOY RUGBY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP
In the First Round night game of the GIO Rugby League Schoolboy competition against Holy Cross College Ryde a great come-from-behind 31-30 win in the last minutes of play was a wonderful result after trailing almost the entire game. In the Second Round game played against St Dominics College Penrith at the Campbelltown Stadium we again had another excellent come-from-behind 24-20 win, again in dying minutes of the game. We now look forward to playing Matraville Sports High School in Week 2 of Term 3.

MCS FOOTBALL (SOCCER) AND RUGBY LEAGUE COMPETITIONS
A strong performance in the MCS Football weekly competition against Marist College Parramatta resulted in six wins and two draws. The winning teams were First XI: 3-2, Second XI: 2-1, Year 9: 3-0, Year 8 B: 1-0, Year 7 A: 2-0 and Year 7 B: 2-0. The Year 10 and Year 8 A teams had 2-2 draws. All teams play Fairfield this week with senior teams at the College and junior teams travelling away.

Three wins and seven losses was a good “reality check” for our teams in the MCS Rugby League competition. The significant highlights were the First XIII defeating Blacktown #3 34-10, Third XIII defeating Parramatta 40-0 and the 15 years A defeating Blacktown #3 40-0.

The First XIII backed their first GIO win two days later defeating Fairfield to progress into the MCS Semi Finals where they are to play St Gregory’s Second XIII. The winning team will play either Blacktown Firsts or Seconds who are playing in the other Semi Final.

Thursday MCS Football had a mixed day with all the Junior games being washed out; the First 40-0 and Second 8-0 had excellent wins with a 1-1 draw to the Year 10s and a 0-2 loss to the Year 9 teams. Individual highlights would be for Iain Carlisle in the 2nd XI who scored 5 goals. In a great result all 8 St Gregory’s Soccer teams will play in the MCS Semi Finals this week.

Joseph Lantz, Sports Coordinator

Other News

Calendar Note

School Photos
this year will be held as follows:

Friday 26 August
Main Photo Day

Friday 2 September
Co-Curricular Groups

CAREERS FORUM

FOR YEARS 9 TO 12

WEDNESDAY 27 JULY 2016
3.00PM UNTIL 4.30PM

Representatives from Universities, TAFE. Private Providers, Apprenticeship Schemes etc., will be available to talk to students and their parents.

To be followed by Mrs Keegan, Director of Teaching and Learning explaining the ATAR and post-HSC options.

The next FAMILY MASS
St. Anthony’s Church, Tahmoor is Saturday, June 25 at 5.00pm. This will be the first Family Mass since we were all flooded out of our much loved school and now we are hoping to come together as a school and Parish to celebrate the joy of recovery and hope. So please join us to sing and clap and dance to give thanks to GOD for all He has done in the past few days. Refreshments after Mass as usual.