Dear Members of the St Gregory’s Family,

Pentecost

Last Sunday was Pentecost Sunday, a very important day on the Church calendar. Pentecost is actually the fiftieth day after Easter. Christ left the disciples at the Ascension on the fortieth day after Easter and commissioned them to continue his work of spreading and preaching the Good News. At Pentecost, he fills them with the Holy Spirit in order to give them confidence to go forth, to practise and preach the Good News. They were ordinary people and I am sure that Christ in choosing these people was also giving us the message that each of us can communicate joy and peace and preach compassion and forgiveness. It is one thing to preach it, but to live it is the key. There will be many times in our own lives when it won’t be easy to practise the themes of the Good News, but I am sure that Christ doesn’t expect us to be perfect either. It is really all about being mindful of the Good News and doing the best that we can. Christ continually told his followers, “Be not afraid”. The Spirit would give them the courage to take on any situation that they needed to deal with. It is the same for us in our daily lives with the many difficult and stressful situations that we face today. Christ is there for us if we take the time to reflect.

Debating

Congratulations to our Year 12 and Year 10 Debating Teams, who after torrid debates last Friday evening, advance to the Quarter-Finals tonight. I hope that they will be first across the finish line in order to make the Semi-Finals next term.

Musical

The Musical was a great success once again. The talent of our young men is nothing short of amazing. I saw students in lead roles who I had not seen in action before. It is interesting to note that some students have left it until their last year to step onto the stage. It was wonderful night of entertainment. Congratulations to Mrs Savage and her team of supporters who help to make the musical a reality.

We return again next term in full College Winter Uniform ready for a ten week term. It is a busy one for Year 12 as they face their trial exams early in the term and then graduate at the end of the term. A very important term for the boys and their families.

This term has been a short term and never the less a busy term with so many events taking place. Just this week we have had the College Athletic Carnival, the Old Boy’s Vintage Luncheon, Finals Day, the Year 7 – 10 Dance, Debating and the Ex-students reunions. This is typical week at the College but it definitely tells me that there is a great spirit in the College and it is alive and well. Thank you to everyone for your contribution this term for without the enthusiasm and the energy that everyone generates, St Greg’s would not be the place that it is.

Quae Seminaveris Metes.

Damien Millar
Headmaster
Today brings down the curtain on a career that spans many years as the Manager of the College Uniform Shop. Many people have passed through the Uniform Shop in that time and have had the service of Mrs Major. I am sure that she could tell many stories about the many families that she has met and serviced over the years. She has spent many hours after the close of business ensuring that records are meticulously kept in order ensuring the smooth running of the shop. I know that she is very proud of ensuring that goods have always been delivered on time which is not easy when one considers how many outside companies she had to deal with. I am sure that we all wish her a long and happy retirement.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank Mrs Jenkins and Mrs Clissold who have been involved with the shop in more recent times.

Damien Millar, Headmaster

As our time here at the College Uniform Shop and Clothing Pool comes to an end, we wanted to take this opportunity to thank all the boys and their families for your support over the years. We have thoroughly enjoyed the many conversations with parents about uniform (of course!), boys being boys and life at the College. But in particular it has been a pleasure watching your boys grow into fine young men.

With fond regards,

Anne Major, Maureen Jenkins and Paula Clissold, College Uniform Shop and Clothing Pool

Mission

Solomon Islands and Fiji Immersions

At St Gregory’s College, we offer our students a number of opportunities to immerse themselves in cultures that are different to our own. These programmes are called “immersions” as students who participate are required to involve themselves deeply in the places and cultures that they visit. The Solomon Immersion boys and staff left on Thursday 19 June with Fiji travellers leaving on Saturday 21 June. This will be an amazing experience for them – they will not only gain, develop and grow through service but will hopefully get time to stop and reflect on their role as agents of change.

As a community, we will all gain from their involvement as the boys will address various Year groups and speak at Assembly when they return. They will be able to communicate to the boys why we do the fundraising work we do and how it makes a difference.

Thanks to all those who have cooked, sold and eaten sausage sandwiches for fund raising! Thanks to Mr Barry Graham, Miss Kath Wray, Mrs Trudy Sawyer and Mr Steve Mann who will accompany the boys. Thanks also to Mrs Judith Walsh for her work preparing for the Immersions and to Mrs Polly Quirk for her support of the programme.

Photos of the travellers can be found at Immersion trips.

Sacramental Programme

Our Sacramental Programme will commence in week two of Term 3. If you would like your son/s to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation email me on cathie.clarke@stgregs.nsw.edu.au. The Sacraments will be received at morning Mass on Friday 29 August.

Mums’ Retreat

Some mums have put to me the idea of participating in a Mums’ Retreat. This would be a non-confrontational time for some St Greg’s mums to get together, to talk and take a break! The type of Retreat that would run would depend entirely of the needs and wishes of the group.

If you may be interested in participating in such a retreat, beginning on a Friday evening about 5pm and concluding with lunch on the Saturday, please email me your name, your son’s name and year. This is not a commitment. I am just enquiring to see if the interest is there.

Cathie Clarke,
Director of Mission/RE Coordinator
Upon reflection, it is hard to believe that Year 9 have been involved in such a large number and variety of activities in an eight week Term.

The Term commenced with a highly challenging and successful “Boys to Men” activity day. Closely followed by NAPLAN testing, Parent/Teacher interviews, half yearly examinations, Champagnat Mass and activity day, excursions, immunisations and Athletics Carnival.

Aligned with this hectic schedule is the everyday academic, sporting and co-curricular demands at St Gregory’s College. Throughout this plethora of events the Year 9 cohort continued to display enthusiasm, maturity and commitment. On behalf of the Pastoral Team I would like to congratulate the Year group on the pride they have displayed in the College and as individuals.

We now look forward to the continuing challenges in Terms 3 and 4.

Peter Hogan, Year 9 Coordinator

Photos from the Boys to Men day can be found at Year 9

Ned Mulholland Year 10 Quota International 1st place
Sam Hackett Year 10 Quota International 2nd place
Brent Rushworth Year 9 CCC Cross Country 2nd place 15 years
Cameron Lawrence Year 7 CCC Cross Country 5th place 12 years

Year 9 News

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Teaching and Learning

Mock Trial Competition

On Tuesday the Mock Trial Team faced Freeman Catholic College in round 4 of the State wide competition.

Jack McNally and Ivan Brcic were both excellent as barristers, with Jack now having been told twice in two rounds that he is a formidable opponent when cross-examining witnesses, a complement in this arena. Sebastian Cannavo provided excellent notes to both boys as the team examined their witnesses and cross-examined Freeman’s witnesses.

Our witnesses Patrick Cooke and Zac Foster both scored highly in presenting their relevant scripts and performed perfectly under cross-examination. Patrick has become an excellent witness for the team. It was also Zac’s first attempt on the witness stand and he did a wonderful job.

Thomas Prestwidge took on the demanding role of keeping order in the court through his role as the Court Officer.

The magistrate commented on how well our boys performed and also provided some great advice going forward.

The boys came away with another victory and we now wait to see if we have progressed through to the top 64 schools and into the knock-out rounds of the competition.

Congratulations to the team: Jack, Ivan, Sebastian, Patrick and Zac who competed in this round, to Joshua Clarkson and Luke Grosvenor, who are also members of the team, and to their coach, Mr Bullock, whose help has been invaluable.

Catherine Keegan, Director of Teaching and Learning
Sports News

In the first Newsletter next Term I will report on the College Annual Athletics Carnival, CCC Open Basketball Regional Carnival and Grand Finals in the MCS Football and Rugby League.

GIO SCHOOLBOY RUGBY LEAGUE COMPETITION
The First Grade Rugby League team put in a great effort against Hills Sports High School in our 16 to 24 loss in the GIO Cup game. Again, there was great support by the many students and College staff, old boys, families and friends attending the game. The College’s next game will be an away game to Farrer High School, Tamworth in the first week of Term 3.

MCS FOOTBALL AND RUGBY LEAGUE
In Football seven of our eight teams have qualified for the MCS Semi Finals and Year 10 finished in 5th place. From the MCS Semi Finals six of our seven teams have won and will now play in this week’s Grand Finals. The successful teams were First Grade, Second Grade, Year 9, Year 8 “A”, Year 7 “A” and Year 7 “B”.

Congratulations to the First Grade Football team who defeated St Paul’s College 3-1. We will now play Patrician Brothers, Blacktown in the Grand Final of the MCS Knockout competition in the first week of Term 3.

In Rugby League the Third Grade team and 15 years “A” teams will play in the major MCS Grand Finals at Parramatta Stadium this week.

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS
Nine of our students represent MCS at the CCC Cross Country Championship. Brent Rushworth (15 years – 2nd place) and Cameron Lawrence (12 years – 5th place) have qualified to now compete in the NSW All Schools Championship early next Term.

Joseph Lantz, Sports Coordinator

Other News

The Wiz! Musical
Our students were involved in a spectacular show with St Pat’s last week. ‘The Wiz’ was entertaining and it was wonderful to see so many students on stage feeling so confident about their acting ability. I think that the many hours of practice certainly ensured that these students were ready to display their talents in front of an audience and they shone! It also takes the team effort of cast, crew and band to put together a performance like this. The lead roles were amazing especially their singing talents.

Congratulations to our leads: Matthew Cavagnino; Faaoli Titie-Anitelea; David Moli; Blake Peroumal

Landmark NSW Sheep Show
On 22 May, 4 boys and 1 teacher left for Dubbo with 10 Corriedale sheep to participate in the Landmark NSW Sheep Show 2014.

To see Zak Hackett’s report on the good results achieved and some photos go to Landmark

Sports Events

17 July
MCS Tennis (16years—Opens) and MCS Chess (12-15 years)
MCS Football KO Grand Final at Blacktown
GIO Schoolboy Rugby League Cup at Farrar High

24 July
MCS Tennis (12-15 years) and MCS Chess (16-Opens)
CCC Schoolboy Rugby League vs Mount Carmel

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

Landmark

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