Dear Members of the St Gregory's family,

The College has witnessed another year full of activity with students showcasing their skills in a variety of areas.

The College has now completed the renovation of the music facilities which have been transformed from the old Industrial Arts block. The students are very pleased with the new facilities and I am sure that we will see and hear the benefits of the new facilities throughout the year. The Band performs on a regular basis at a variety of College functions. The Choir, which was commenced this year, has performed internally on a number of occasions such as at the recent Celebrity Sports Dinner but not to forget their performance at the Sydney Cricket Ground earlier this year. The enlarging of the College Hall is the next item on the Building Programme which hopefully will commence early in 2014.

On the Co-curricular front, the students have excelled once again with a number of trophies remaining at the College. They cover areas such as Public Speaking, Debating, Rugby League, Soccer, Cross Country and Show Teams to name a few. It is pleasing to see so many students availing themselves of the opportunities that are provided for them in which to develop their talents. The confidence they gain from participating in these activities I am sure flows over to the classroom.

Parent involvement is at an all-time high once again this year. Parents have been arriving in great numbers at the Parent Forums throughout the year. The number of parent volunteers has been wonderful, for without the support that we have had, we could not have organised some of the events. The numbers who have volunteered to be on committees and not miss meetings has been very heartening for those who organise these events. I would especially like to acknowledge Mr and Mrs Cuthbertson who have been doing the College BBQs on Saturdays for the last six years. It is a time consuming occupation and I know many hours go into the set up each Saturday. Thank you for your dedication and service to the Community. It is also important to note that the Celebrity Sports Dinner has been going for twenty years. Mr Bruce Hanrahan and Mr Paul Wakeling have been part of the committee for the last twenty years. A mighty effort and an outstanding commitment which would be hard to replicate.

There have been changes in our staff this year and leading into next year with marriages, births and promotions. At the commencement of the year, we celebrated four of our staff members (Mrs Falas, Mrs Spencer, Mr Anderson and Mrs Monte) getting married with another during the year (Mr Bisset). One staff member, Mrs Patten, returning from maternity leave and Mrs Falas going on maternity leave. Mrs Buckley gave birth to triplets early in the year so she will be on leave for another year. Speaking of promotions, we congratulate Mr Kennaugh on his new position that he will take up in 2014 as Principal of De La Salle College Ashfield and Mr Brennan as our Deputy Headmaster at St Gregory’s. We wish them every success with their new endeavours.

HEADMASTER S THANK YOU DINNER

On Thursday, 28 November Mr Millar hosted a dinner in the Donovan Centre to say a thank you to the many people within our College community who volunteer their time to many activities at St Greg’s. From the canteen to the Foundation Board members, Finance Advisory Council, weekend sport and BBQ’s and the Celebrity Sports Dinner committee. Many of these services would not be able to operate without the help from our past and current parent body, so a warm thank you to all.
Within the space of a month, the College Chapel was used to farewell two very special ex-students of St Gregory’s, Br Coman Sykes and Br William Connell.

Br Coman (Geoffrey Patrick Sykes) began as a boarder at St Greg’s in Second Form 1943. After completing the Intermediate here in 1944 he made the move to Mittagong to complete his schooling and begin his training as a Marist Brother. After profession as a Brother his first teaching appointment was to St Vincent’s Boys Home Westmead where for eight years he toiled in the classroom, sporting field and on the land to provide and care for the young men under his responsibility. This appointment was followed by promotion to a leadership position when in 1957 he was asked to return to his Alma Mater as Headmaster at the tender age of 28.

For six years Br Coman led the school with great vision and drive. It was a period of expansion in numbers at the College and many physical improvements were made: a new laundry, sporting fields, the swimming pool and the College Chapel all began during this time. However, it was Coman’s knowledge and care of the individual, and his willingness to work hard and get his hands dirty that made a lasting impression on the students of that period.

After his time at St Greg’s Coman went on to lead other Marist endeavours at North Sydney, Kogarah, Parramatta, Canberra and Mittagong before retiring to St Greg’s to become Br Luke’s apprentice on the farm in 2003. Coman always remained interested in the College and its Old Boys and was a font of knowledge on the history of the school. His cheerful presence and wise advice was often sought out by students both present and past. The College is certainly a better place as a result of Br Coman’s influence and his presence is sadly missed by all associated with the St Greg’s. May he rest in peace.

Br William Connell came to the College as a boarder in First Form 1954 from Grong Grong in country NSW. In his final year at the College in 1958, Bill was chosen College Captain, became Dux and represented in the First XIII. After completing his training as a Marist Brother at Mittagong, Bill began his extensive ministry teaching at Cairns, Dundas and Rosalie. In 1966 he returned to the St Greg’s staff where for nine years he taught, coached and supervised in his quiet, efficient manner.

Periods of leadership followed at Grafton and Eastwood before Bill was given permission to further his studies in the USA. However, his time overseas was cut short when the death of Br Geoffrey Schwager in 1988 necessitated his recall from the USA to assume the mantle of leadership at his Alma Mater. For three years Bill guided the College and provided sound leadership. It was during his Headmastership that Senan House, the senior boarding accommodation block, was built.

With the appointment of Br Paul Hough as Headmaster in 1992, Bill was free to resume his doctoral studies in the USA. After successfully completing these, Bill returned to Australia and began a second career working in universities, firstly in Western Australia and more recently in the ACT.

Throughout his life, Bill maintained a love of his teaching vocation and used his considerable intellectual skills for the betterment of others. He had a strong sense of social justice which underpinned his work with young people. His quiet, personable style enabled him to relate well with others and made a lasting impression on those students under his care. May the Lord reward his labours with lasting peace.
It has once again been a busy year in the area of Marist Solidarity and Social Justice.

Our boys have been involved in a number of programs within the school and in the wider community.

Through the Smith Family, a number of Years 10 and 11 students participated in the “Reading Buddy” program where they were paired up with anonymous primary school students and would read with them over the phone 2 nights a week.

We were also highly involved with St Vincent de Paul ventures such as the Doorknock appeal, the Socks, Jocks and Razors drive for the Matthew Talbot Hostel, the Winter and the Christmas Hampers appeals. This year we introduced another initiative called the Reverse Mentoring Program with students from Year 10 paired with Senior Citizens from the area wishing to enhance and develop technology skills such as how to read an email, use a smartphone or simply to better use a camera.

Years 10 and 11 students were asked to complete the newly introduced “Community Service Project” by achieving 100 points of volunteer work within their family and the wider community. The boys achieved great results with a sense of pride and self-worth.

A small but passionate group of like-minded and like-hearted students from St Gregory’s and John Therry attended a Marist Youth Ministry evening, facilitated by Liam Duncan from the Marist Youth Ministry Team. The evening, which focussed on the Marist theme of Presence, included much quality discussion and culminated in sharing a meal together. The Year 10 St Gregory’s students who attended were Emilio Diaz, Lachlan Doherty, Jack Shiner and Sebastian Cannavo.

The world that is SGC Boarding continues to evolve with new and exciting opportunities provided for and by the boys. Whilst Sunday and midweek outings continue to be a popular component of the life of a boarder, further opportunities continue to open in sport, community service and academia.

The introduction of formalised Saturday Basketball continues to grow. Earlier this year four of the five teams made semi-finals with one team finishing runner up and one team champions. As a result the sides have moved to Division 2 ISA Basketball which has begun well with our U15 and 1st grade sides doing particularly well.

In recent weeks the boarding community have been involved in assisting Mary Immaculate Parish Primary School and Mater Dei School pack up their school fetes, greatly assisted in the smooth running of the Celebrity Sports Dinner and Year 11 were involved in the recent successful Insight Program.

In so far as academic pursuits, the boarding community has been enriched with some young and enthusiastic tutors who are making significant changes to the results of the boarders. It has been so successful many day students are looking at moving into part-time boarding, particularly in their senior years. Each year sees cohorts improving in their overall effort and consequently results which has seen the St Gregory’s Boarding Community certainly clearly identified as a progressive, exciting Learning Community. I know the current Year 12 boys were pleased with the recent HSC exams due to solid preparation.

2014 appears to be another building year as numbers have increased by over 10% on 2013. Watch this space for further exciting developments.

On behalf of the St Gregory’s Boarding Community I would like to thank you all for your support in 2013 and wish you all a happy and holy Christmas season and I look forward to crossing paths with many of you in 2014.

Mr Matthew Brennan, Director of Boarding
The St Gregory’s College First XI team travelled to Notre Dame College at Shepparton, Victoria from 3 to 10 December to compete in the Australasian Marist Cricket Carnival. This is an annual event that brings Marist Schools from across Australia and New Zealand together. The boys are billeted with local families and play a match each day in a very competitive and challenging carnival. Congratulations to all the boys who represented the College and their coach, Mr Andrew Jamieson and Manager, Mr Joseph Lantz.

MARIST CRICKET

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YE A R 1 0  O Ve R L AN D  T A S S I E  A D V E N T U R E

Term 4 was a busy Term for our Year 10 students. A few weeks after completing their exams some of the boys, led by Mr Greg Serone and Mr Glen Bonfield, headed to Tasmania to meet the challenge of the world renowned Overland Track. To prepare for the trip, the boys met weekly for some months. They also completed a three-day practice hike traversing the Royal National Park. This hike proved to be excellent preparation for Tasmania as the boys experienced many similar conditions.

The Overland track is a seven day adventure of extreme terrain hiking through alpine wilderness, starting at Cradle Mountain and ending at Lake St. Clair. In recent years, groups have experienced a wide variety of weather conditions including warm sunshine, driving wind and rain and even snow flurries!

As the boys returned after the seven day expedition there were a lot of dirty, tired and relieved faces. Despite the challenges the boys were a fantastic group and gained a lot from their time away together.

The 2013 annual student exhibition “Art Attack” was held recently in the Donovan Centre and was a huge success, thanks to the artistic talents of the Visual Arts students and to the parents who attended the exhibition for their support. The event is a result of the hard work and dedication of the College’s Art Staff, Miss Keir, Miss Wray and Miss Pickard, led by Miss Ferenc. Once again all the exhibits were of a very high standard and reflect the skill and learning of the boys.

The Visual Arts teachers select artworks that display high talent and initiative from Years 7 to 12, students then have the potential to be nominated for the awards and prizes selected by the Headmaster and the Visual Arts Coordinator.

This year’s award recipients are: Year 7 Jarrod Kinchin, Year 8 Alex Sokolsky, Year 9 Flynn Fielding, Year 10 Ben Hibbert, Year 11 Anthony Piccoli and Year 12 Jacob Moon.

Headmasters Award: Joshua Morrissey
Photography: Year 9 Elijah Duroux, Year 10 Luke Grosvenor, Year 11 Christian Valenzuela, Year 12 Joshua Morrissey
YEAR 7 REFLECTIONS

Best thing I did in Year 7... finally finishing my Formula 1 car for sport after spending weeks trying to perfect it.
When I first started at St Greg's I felt... very nervous as the school is so big but excited at the same time.
And now I feel... confident and comfortable with myself.

Best thing I did in Year 7... was getting a distinction in the Australian Maths Competition and getting good marks on all of my tests.
When I first started at St Greg’s I felt... really nervous and unsure what the future for me at this school will hold. But I also felt really excited at the same time that I was going to a great school.
And now I feel... really confident and happy to be here and I enjoy myself every day.

Best thing I did in Year 7... doing well in public speaking and debating.
When I first started at St Greg's I felt... excited, nervous and scared all at the same time.
And now I feel... very bored because exams are over and happy because I've settled in.

Best thing I did in Year 7... connecting with the boys at the Narrabeen camp, it was a great experience to make new friends and bond through various activities.
When I first started at St Greg's I felt... unsure of how I felt, everything was new and improved and I realised that there wasn't time to feel scared but felt excited for the new journey we all started.
And now I feel... happy and determined to always thrive to do my best in this safe environment to learn and achieve.

Best thing I did in Year 7... coming third in the CSDA Public Speaking and winning the Premier Soccer trophy for the school team, a great experience.
When I first started at St Greg's I felt... shy, nervous, worried and scared.
And now I feel... confident, happy and loving St Greg's!

Best thing I did in Year 7... took 5 wickets for 12 runs in school cricket on 17 October against Fairfield Patrician Brothers.
When I first started at St Greg's I felt... worried about the amount of homework I had been told I was going to get.
And now I feel... Relaxed and comfortable with getting it all done on time.

Richard Austen

Cameron Bowden

Zac Hackett

Josh Kobeck

Alexander Mangion

Matthew Saunders

Sheep & Fleece Judging Day

On Wednesday 13th November we conducted the South Coast & Southern Highlands sheep judging day here at the college. This is the first time in over 10 years that the competition has been held here at the College. The Overjudges were past students Leigh Gotch (Bathurst), who oversaw the Merino fleece judging and Ashley Corkhill (Borowa), who did the Merinos and the meat breed sheep.

St Gregory's were fortunate to have the following successes:-
Merino Fleeces: Lachlan Watkins was placed 3rd in the juniors and Brandon Prince 2nd in the intermediates.
Merino Sheep: John Gooden placed 3rd in the juniors, Jack Finch 2nd and Brandon Prince 1st in the intermediates.

These results mean that Brandon Prince will represent group 5 in Merino Fleeces and Merino judging, at the state final conducted at the Sydney Royal Easter show in 2014, while Luke Platts and Salvatore Brancato will represent in the meat sheep judging. Brandon Prince and Jack Finch will also be reserves for meat sheep and merinos respectfully.

A great result for the College and a sincere thanks to Leigh and Ashley on their very professional conduct of the judging on the day.
Marshall Rogers Golf Day

The sixth Marshall Rogers Golf Day was held on Wednesday, 13 November and attracted over 130 golfers to the Camden Lakeside Country Club. The Golf Day is organised by Ben Rogers from the Class of 1998 in honour of his late father, Marshall. The funds raised on the day are donated to the College’s Bursary Fund which assists students with their senior education at St Gregory’s. Thank you to Ben and his family for this generous gift and congratulations on the organisation of another successful Golf Day. If you would like more information on the Bursary Fund or how you can donate, please contact the Development Office at the College.

Reunions

Since bidding farewell to one another over 50 years ago, many Old Boys from the Class of 1953 and beyond reunited at the Vintage Luncheon on Wednesday, 19 June. It was an opportunity to catch up on old times and talk about life, careers and all that has happened since their St Gregory’s days. The day commenced with a College assembly, then a tour and concluded with a lovely lunch in the Donovan Centre.

The Classes of 1983, 1993 and 2003 also celebrated with their reunions over the weekend of 21 and 22 July with record numbers of former students attending the two events and lots of laughter and singing of the Sub Tuum and many friendships renewed.

Old Boys events planned for 2014

**Brother Walfrid Cup** - Current First Grade Football Team vs Old Boys - Thursday, 6 March 2014 at SGC

**Challenge Cup** - Old Boys Family fun day at the College. A round robin competition of touch footy to be held on Sunday, 25 May 2014.

**Classes of 1954 and 1964** - Celebrating 50 and 60 years Vintage Luncheon - Wednesday, 18 June – Tour the College, attend a College assembly and enjoy lunch in the Donovan Centre.

**Class of 2004** - Celebrating 10 years since being at St Gregory’s Friday, 20 June 2014 - Dinner to be held in the Donovan Centre at the College

**Classes of 1984 and 1974** - Celebrating 20 and 30 years Saturday, 21 June - College Tour and dinner to be held in the Donovan Centre.

**Marshall Rogers Golf Day** - Wednesday, 12 November at the Camden Lakeside Golf Course.

It would be wonderful if Old Boys who are interested in attending any of these events for 2014 could contact the Development office via email oldboys@streggs.nsw.edu.au or by telephoning 4629 4132.

Don’t forget to visit our website www.streggs.com.au for the latest information on what’s happening around the College. Please encourage old boys to register their details at the Old Boys link on the St Gregory’s website – www.streggs.nsw.edu.au or drop a line to Old Boys Secretary, St Gregory’s College, 100 Badgally Road, Campbelltown NSW 2560.
LET US KNOW YOUR NEWS....

We are always pleased and proud to hear of the varied achievements and celebrations of our former students. The College Chapel continues to be utilised throughout the year by our Old Boys community for many celebrations.

Ben Hanrahan – Class of 1996
and his wife Rebecca recently celebrated the baptism of their daughter Isabella in the College Chapel and continued the celebrations in the Donovan Centre. Family and friends enjoyed a wonderful afternoon together at the College.

Chris LAWRENCE – Class of 2006
Congratulations on the upcoming marriage to Katherine Scott planned for Saturday, 21 December. We wish them both many blessings for their future life together.

Dylan ADDISON – Class of 2005
Since leaving the College was immediately drafted into the AFL with the Western Bulldogs. Since his debut with the club in 2006 he has played 88 matches for the club. Next year Dylan will return home to play for the Greater Western Sydney Giants. Dylan is a great supporter of the sports dinner, travelling from Melbourne for past 3 years and is also getting married this month to fiancé Sharee.

In September Aaron Culligan – Class of 2003
married Sarah Mooney in the College Chapel arriving in style in a custom vintage ute.

Happy 25th Anniversary! Earlier this year Anthony (Tony) SMITH – Class of 1983 visited with his wife Adrienne to relive the special memories of their wedding day in the College Chapel some 25 year ago.

Saul Briscoe – Class of 1994
and his wife Kymberlie celebrated in October the Baptism of their son John born on 4 February 2013. Saul currently resides in Adelaide and travelled back to the College to join his family for this special celebration.

Daniel Meadows – Class of 2005
married Elyse earlier last year in the College Chapel.

In Memory

We were recently informed of the passing of these old boys and remember their families during their time of loss. We especially pray for the Rhodes family. Gavin Rhodes, his wife and their two children were all tragically killed in a plane crash in Laos in October. His family will miss them greatly.

A number of old boys contacted us to let us know of the passing of Joe Nitsche. Joe died on 26 November after a long illness and a number of Old Boys attended his funeral.

If you hear news of an old boy and would like this news included in this section please forward details to Catherine Jeffcoat on 4629 4133 or email Catherine.jeffcoat@stregs.nsw.edu.auCatherine.au

Br Coman Skyes 1946
Joe Nitsche 1955
Gavin Rhodes 1992

Br William Connell 1958
Stephen Kennedy 1976
Craig Stephens 1981

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Congratulations!
The Development Office celebrated another successful major fundraising event with the *Twentieth Annual Celebrity Sports Dinner*. This unique event continues to enjoy a reputation for excellence both in the Macarthur community and beyond, with record numbers this year of over 550 guests to the College and a host of our best known sports men and women.

1994 was the year of our first Celebrity Sports Dinner at St Gregory’s College. The idea of the Celebrity Sports Dinner came from the vision and energy of Headmaster, Br Paul Hough, and Mr Tony Fitzgerald the College’s Development Officer. Since that time the concept has expanded and developed.

Over the past twenty years the Celebrity Sports Dinner has gained a wonderful reputation and this year was again a social and financial success with our best ever result of over $130,000 being raised to go to the College Foundation. The continued success of the dinner certainly would not be possible without the past and current dedicated committees working tirelessly together to ensure many successful dinners. This year our committee was made up of: Mr Bruce Hanrahan, Mr Paul Wakeling, Mr Steve Carter, Mr Jack Hughes, Mrs Annette O’Neill, Mrs Kate Stott and Mr Greg Field.

This year we welcomed Lauren Jackson, who did inspire us with her presence, together with a cast of Australian sporting greats. We have also been graced by over 582 sporting champions since our very first dinner, many of them Old Boys of the College. This is an astonishing effort.

Without the support of so many generous sponsors and individuals this event would simply be impossible to stage. We thank them most sincerely for their generosity and we hope you can show your support to these businesses as they have supported us.

At a recent assembly, the College had the opportunity to directly thank our Major Sponsors, Wests League Club Campbelltown, which has been associated with this event for the past twenty years.

We look forward to seeing you at the 21st Celebrity Sports Dinner!!!