Headmaster’s News

Dear Members of the St Gregory’s Family,

We have now officially entered the season of Lent and the College held Ash Wednesday Liturgical services this week which were led by the senior leaders.

Lent is the time when we commence our preparations for Easter. Christ himself went out, prayed and fasted for forty days and forty nights in order to prepare himself for what was ahead. We are not any different if you think about it. Boys entered the Gordon Fetterplace Public Speaking Competition last Friday and they would have spent time preparing their speeches for the Competition. Boys know when the exams are approaching and they will then spend more time preparing for them. Is it not the same in our relationship with Christ? Should we not spend time reflecting on our relationship with Christ and reflecting on the coming of Easter and the relevance of Easter to us.

Joshua Miller’s (Year 10) mother passed away last week and I ask that you keep Josh and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Open Day
The Open Day will be taking place this Sunday 22 February from 10am until 1pm. There will be tours conducted by the students and other members of staff. It is a great opportunity for the College to showcase its facilities and the expanded Brother Luke Hall will be open for viewing.

College Information Evening
The Information Night will be held on Wednesday 25 February commencing at 7.30 pm in the Brother Luke Hall. It is a night when the College staff have the opportunity to speak to prospective parents and students about the benefits of a St Gregory’s College education.

Opening and Blessing of the Hall
The Opening and Blessing of the Hall has been postponed until Term 2. This will allow the College a bit more time to fit it out internally in an appropriate fashion. Our first official function in the Hall will be the Harmony Day Assembly which will be held on Friday 20 March at 9.00 am.

College Gym
A gentleman has been employed to oversee the operations of the gym outside school hours. This arrangement is in order to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the students who use the gym on a regular basis. There have been concerns raised about the boy’s exuberance to do more sessions than they should. We are hoping to monitor the boys in order to ensure that they don’t overdo their workouts.

It has been a wonderful start to the year with the boys settling well into the routine of College life.

Quae Seminaveris Metes,

Damien Millar, Headmaster
From the Deputy Headmaster

Mr Millar and I have been visiting bus stops in order to see how the students are conducting themselves in relation to good manners when entering and exiting buses. I am aware that a number of buses are heavily loaded and some parents are concerned about this. I would suggest that if parents are concerned about boys having to stand on the buses, that they write to the bus companies concerned and their local Members of Parliament.

AFTER SCHOOL PICK UP
Please ensure that you only collect your boys from the drop off / pick up area. No student should ever be picked up and dropped off in the general car parking areas. Despite being reminded last newsletter there have still been some parents dropping boys off. Your assistance in this area is appreciated.

COLLEGE BAGS
Students must bring their College school back pack to school every day except Thursday. There are no exceptions. On Thursday the boys may bring any of the three College bags, i.e the College school bag pack, the smaller PE back pack or the new sports bag available in the College Shop. Should boys need to bring a second bag any day of the week it must an additional St Greg’s bag.

Matthew Brennan, Deputy Headmaster

Mission

On Monday morning our student leaders launched our annual Lenten season appeal for Marist Solidarity. This fits nicely with the liturgies which were held in each classroom on Wednesday morning as the student leaders led us in Ash Wednesday prayer to begin the season of Lent.

In the Catholic tradition this is a very special season leading to the most significant time of Easter when we recall the death and resurrection of Christ. During his life, Jesus spent 40 days in the desert praying and preparing himself for his ministry. Lent is a time to remind ourselves that we too are called to spend some time in reflecting on our lives, so that we can live out our greater purpose. The boys were reminded that there are three ways to do this – in prayer, in almsgiving and in fasting.

As a community we are challenged to spend some time in prayer in the Chapel, especially in attendance at Friday morning Mass, to support our Lenten appeal by donation ourselves, or giving of our time and energy to run a fundraising activity, to fast – not from food, but from something that might be stopping us from being our best selves.

Bishop Peter has sent out a Lenten message to all which can be read on our College website. This explains the days and obligations of penance which we are bound to as Catholics during this season. Link: Message from Bishop

Cathie Clarke, Director of Mission
Students “Oozing” Confidence @ Gordon Fetterplace Competition

The Gordon Fetterplace Public Speaking Competition was held last Friday evening 13 February 2015 at the College in the Donovan Centre. It was wonderful night with many entries and many students with their first attempt at public speaking. There was a wonderful community feel to the event with many parents and friends in attendance to support the young men who had the courage to stand in front of an audience especially the debutantes.

“It was very pleasing to see so many young men, who are our future, being prepared to stand in front of audience share their ideas especially the debutantes”.

To read more on this story—go to the news section of the College Website.
Photos available in the “Galleries” section of the College Website.

Year 7—ELES Study Skills Parent/Student Evening

On Monday 16 February, the College hosted the Year 7 ELES Study Skills Parent/Student Evening. Ms Prue Salter from Enhanced Learning Educational Services was our facilitator for the evening for the two sessions held.

Parents and students gained a valuable insight and information on study skills from these sessions. Hopefully everyone found these sessions beneficial and the boys will explore the website as there are many resources on there that will help them to develop their approach to study and in the long term help them academically.

Information can be downloaded via the College website: Study Skills Tips

The presentation is available to view on the Enhanced Learning Website until 9 March

For access to the Study Skills Handbook—Parents will be email the link directly with the log in and password.

Catherine Keegan, Director of Teaching and Learning
Sports News

NSW CCC DOWNIE TROPHY CRICKET COMPETITION
Our First XI Cricket team continued their defence of the NSW CCC Downie Trophy in their Quarter Final 156 run win against Marist College, Kogarah

MCS BASKETBALL AND CRICKET
During Week 2 in the MCS Competition our Basketball teams were undefeated with our First V defeating the very strong St Andrew’s College and all Junior teams defeating All Saints, Liverpool.

In the final Round of the MCS Cricket and Basketball Competitions our First Grade teams were Minor Premiers in both sports.

ANNUAL SWIMMING CARNIVAL
Our Annual Swimming Carnival was held at the Bradbury Pool this year. Great weather, great Leadership from our House Captains and Year 12 students, great support from the College Staff, great support from students, great chanting of encouragement led by Donovan House in particular.

The full Sports Report with detailed results and Representative Honours can be viewed on the College website: Sports Report

Joseph Lantz, Sports Coordinator

Take Note!

CHANGES TO STUDENT LEAVE (OUTSIDE OF HOLIDAY PERIODS) AND EXEMPTION FROM ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS COMMENCING 2015

If your son is going to be absent from the College for a period of 10 days or more, and is on leave due to a family holiday, outside of school holiday periods, an Application for Extended Leave needs to be filled in and provided to the Headmaster for approval.

An Exemption from Attendance is to be used for absences such as Elite Sports Comps, Film/TV work or other exceptional circumstances.

For more information and to download the forms, please visit: Student Forms

FORTH COMING SPORTING EVENTS
26 February—MCS Basketball and Cricket – Grand Finals
26-27 Feb—NSW All Schools Triathlon Penrith Regatta Centre
3 March—Marist Invitational Swimming Carnival – North Shore
3-4 March—CCC Cricket Downie Trophy Semis and Grand Finals
5 March—MCS Football – Rd 1, RL – 13 & 14yr WFA
12 March—MCS Football – Rd 2, RL – 13 & 14yr WFA
12 March—MCS Tennis Championship (16yr – Opens)
17 March—CCC Baseball Championship
19 March—MCS Football – Rd 3, RL – 13 & 14yr WFA
24 March—MCS Swimming Carnival Homebush
26 March—MCS Football – Rd 4, RL – 13 & 14yr WFA