Dear Parents and Friends,

Here we are again rapidly approaching the end of another school year and another festive holiday season. 34 days to go till Christmas I was helpfully informed by the countdown calendar on our print room door this morning. I must admit at the time I was questioning its’ validity or perhaps I just didn’t want to believe it to be true. On reflection, I guess that is why the advent season is so important. If we just marched on to Christmas at perhaps our usual and often frantic pace, I guess the message and meaning of Christmas could easily be lost on us. So bring on Advent I say. I for one need to seriously prepare. Having said that, one of our Carmelite priests, Fr Greg Burke delivered one of the best homilies I have ever heard on Sunday night. He explained why we have the Feast of Christ the King. Fr Greg was himself surprised to learn that the origins of the feast day weren’t in medieval times but rather as late as 1925. It was instituted in a period following the destruction of the First World War and a time of rising secularism. It was a feast day all about humility in a time when it was most needed. The crux of Fr Greg’s message was all about what kind of role models our young men follow. It was a well-constructed and well delivered homily that hopefully spoke to the heart of our young men.

Another time of preparation has recently been completed for most of your sons in the weeks leading up to their exams. Year 7, 8 and 9 will complete theirs this week. They have had every opportunity to prepare adequately so hopefully the reward is in their end of semester report.

During this term as the warmer weather has set in each house has enjoyed a Friday afternoon BBQ and swim down at Wollongong. The weekend just gone also saw Edgar house take on the local Go-Kart track and a few of our Year 7 – 9 Casanovas attend another St Patrick’s College dance. I’ve also put a few photos below of a recent outing to Wenona School where the boys socialised with the girls over a BBQ dinner, some trivia and games. Wenona’s Director of Boarding could not have been more complimentary about our boys. She had attended a recent conference where she had also heard positive comments about our boys and their respectful attitudes and polite manner, especially in the way they interacted with the girls. I must say I left that function feeling very proud of your sons and satisfied that we have built a solid reputation for ourselves amongst girls boarding schools.

Please feel free to circulate this newsletter to anyone you know who might be interested. They can also subscribe or seek further information from our registrar Kate Stott at:

kate.stott@stgregs.nsw.edu.au

Regards,

Max Spencer
Director of Boarding
**ALTERNATIVE WORK INITIATIVE (Non-ATAR Program)**

One of our boarding goals was to implement a worthwhile alternative program of work for boys who aren’t looking to obtain an ATAR. There are a number of boys in each year group whose subject choices and career intentions don’t lend themselves to 3 hours study a night in preparation for the HSC. I’m pleased to say that whilst still in it’s infancy, this program has commenced and the boys have done a superb job of restoring the garden furniture in Senan House. This included sanding back and repainting the metal legs and lacquering the wooden table tops and seats.

**END OF YEAR ARRANGEMENTS**

As far as the rest of this year is concerned, you will see from the upcoming events listed below that there is plenty happening. A reminder about planning ahead for picking up your sons on the last day of the year. As has been the practice in the past, if you are present at the College Mass at 9:00am on Friday 9th December, you are welcome to take your sons home after Mass. The boarding houses will be opened for you at this time. I would ask that you support the College in this regard and do not ask for exceptions to be made for leaving early. If you cannot make Mass, the houses will again open at 3:00pm. Please ensure that the entire contents of your son’s room is cleaned out so that we can complete cleaning and maintenance over the holiday period.

Wenona School BBQ and games night
Year 12, 2017 on retreat

**ISA Summer Sport**

After 5 rounds of summer sport here are our current rankings.

**Basketball**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 13</td>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 14</td>
<td>6th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 15</td>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 17</td>
<td>5th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Grade</td>
<td>4th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The **cricket** team are currently in 4th place.
Upcoming events:

- 21st – 23rd November – Year 7 – 9 Exams continue
- 26th November - Round 6 ISA Basketball and Cricket
- 28th November – 2nd December – Year 10 Activities and Work Experience
- 4 December – End of year outing to Jamberoo
- 5th – 7th December – Year 10 Camp
- 8th December – Year 7 – 10 Academic Awards Evening
- 9th December - College Christmas Mass, 9:00am
- 9th December – Term 4 concludes, all students picked up from the College.

DATES AND TIMES FOR RETURN TO THE COLLEGE IN 2017

Please note the following dates and Times for Boarders coming into the College in 2017.

- NEW YEAR 7 BOARDERS FOR 2017 arrive on Sunday 29th January at 1.30pm

- NEW YEAR 8-YEAR 11 BOARDERS arrive on Monday 30th of January at 10.30am

- ALL RETURNING BOARDERS in Years 8-12 will return to the College on Monday 30th January between 2pm and 4pm

Term 1 commences at 8.30am on Tuesday 31st January 2017.
Calendar Dates for 2017.

Over the Christmas break period you will receive a new St Gregory’s College Calendar for 2017 in the mail. Here are some dates in advance for your information to enable you to plan :-

**Term One**

- **January 31**: Term 1 commences
- **March 3**: Boarder Travel Day – Free weekend FWD home
- **March 7**: Boarder Travel Day RTN to the College
- **April 7**: Term 1 concludes Boarders Travel Day FWD home

**Term Two**

- **April 23**: BTD return for Term 2
- **April 24**: Term 2 Commences
- **May 19**: Parent Teacher Interviews
- **May 20**: Boarder Family Gala weekend
- **May 21**: Parent Teacher Interviews
- **June 9**: Boarder Travel Day FWD for Free Weekend
- **June 12**: Boarder Travel Day RTN from Free Weekend
- **June 23**: Boarder Travel Day FWD home for end of Term 2
Term Three

July 16th  Boarder Travel Day RTN for Term 3
August 18th Boarder Travel Day FWD home for Free Weekend
August 22nd Boarder Travel Day RTN from Free Weekend
September 22nd Year 12 Graduation Mass and Graduation Night
September 23rd Boarder Travel Day FWD home for end of Term

Term Four

October 8th  Boarder Travel Day RTN for Term 4
November 10th Boarder Travel Day FWD for Free Weekend
November 14th Boarder Travel Day  RTN from Free Weekend
December 8  Term 4 concludes for 2017

Country Visits

We are endeavouring to make our Country Visits once again next year, however in 2017 we are looking to hold the visits in the earlier part of the year being March instead of August/September.

Currently, we have booked Thursday night 2nd of March for our Cooma Information Night at the Alpine Hotel.

We are also looking to travel to Griffith, Hillston, West Wyalong and Harden in March and we will provide more information when the dates are set.