Dear Parents

Welcome to the 2013 school year! It has largely been a wonderful start for students and staff with the Boarding Co-ordinators commenting yesterday how well the boys have settled into life at St Greg’s. 49 new boarders have joined the community and have already brought much energy and enthusiasm to our already vibrant community. The boys have had a number of opportunities to socialise together in a relaxed environment and it is already good to see new friendships forming and existing ones growing stronger.

There have been many other activities for the boys including cricket, basketball and fitness and a trip to Wollongong. Those who witnessed first grade’s come from behind basketball win on Saturday will never forget that atmosphere. The study routine has been embraced by most and good habits are forming. Mass on Sunday night was again an uplifting and reverent experience.

The College has experienced one of its wettest starts to the year since records were kept with 9 inches of rain to date since 27th January. This has resulted in some sports being cancelled though much fun on the natural water slides.

The staff have been enthusiastic and committed to ensuring a smooth start, for both the new and old boarders. We have had some illness and injury, understandable and expected bouts of home sickness and students lost and unsure of routines. I have appreciated their caring and understanding and I would like to thank them for this.

Certainly a goal for me in my role as Director of Boarding is again ensuring your son has the best opportunity to succeed in as many areas of College life as possible. Academic success is my major priority and in getting your son the results he is capable of receiving. This leads to a trickle effect across all other areas.

Can I please remind you to call your son’s House Co-ordinator with any concerns as they arise or any information you may require. I have included a full list of contacts with this newsletter.

Finally, I ask again that you please circulate this to anyone that may be interested and also give them the email address where they can subscribe:

kate.bryan@stgregs.nsw.edu.au

Many thanks for your ongoing support,

Matthew Brennan
YEAR 12 RESULTS 2012

The Year 12 results were the most pleasing in my time at the College. Whilst we had some very high ATAR’s all boys I have spoken to have received early or first round offers, received a cadetship or were starting an apprenticeship or work in a GAP year.

Boarding students gained three of the top four ATAR’s in the College (though the other student did begin his time as a boarder!) and two other students received additional scholarships or support. Some notable individual achievements include:

James Horton  Dux  studying Commerce at Syd Uni       Cadetship with PWC
Tom Brown   3rd  studying Engineering at Syd Uni
Tim Wray    4th  studying Arts/Law at Macquarie
Adam Elliott  studying Physiotherapy at Syd Uni
Chris O’Donnell received Syd Uni Indigenous Rugby Scholarship studying Arts
Abe Elliott starting a cadetship at the Western Magazine Dubbo
Luke Moody  offered an apprenticeship as an electrician in the mines in Cobar

These are but a few of the great stories of the class of 2012. We are all incredibly proud of all of the Year 12 boarders and their academic achievements, confident in the knowledge they will continue to enhance the great name St Gregory’s College enjoys in regional and metropolitan areas of NSW and beyond.

BOARDING LEADERS 2013

Congratulations to the following students on their election as the Boarding Leaders for 2013:

Arthur Currie   Tim Green   Billy Overall
Harry Roach    Joe Stimson   Craig Ticehurst

The Boarding Captain and Vice Captain will be named at the Commencement Mass this Friday.
STAFF CHANGES 2013

There have been two notable changes to the staffing for this year. Mr Wade Thomas who had lived in Fingal for three years has had to relocate due to his employer Greater Western Sydney changing offices. Wade will be missed by the community and we thank him for his commitment. His place has been taken by Mr Luke McGinnity who will move from Alfred.

Mr Jon MacGregor lived in Senan for the last six months of last year. Mr MacGregor has left to continue his teaching career living and working in a remote Indigenous community west of Uluru.

JUNIOR LAPTOPS

Students in Year 7-11 particularly do not need to bring personal laptops to school. Already boys have been caught using them at inappropriate times ie after lights out or not using them properly during study. Whilst the College embraces and uses technology it is worth considering how much is too much. Students who don’t follow the expectations with personal laptops will have them confiscated and you will be contacted by your son’s house Co-ordinator. Please discuss this with your son and determine whether he requires it at the College.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

When speaking to you all, the major reason for sending your son/s to boarding school is to increase his opportunities and to give him a structured study environment. Two wonderful opportunities that are coming up over the next few weeks are auditions for the College Musical and entry into the Gordon Fetterplace Public Speaking Competition. Your son doesn’t need a particular talent in either, rather enthusiasm and courage to get out of his comfort zone. All abilities are catered for.

Please support me in encouraging your son/s to give it a go!

Other events include:

- YEAR 12 STUDY SKILLS WEDNESDAY 6TH FEBRUARY P3-4
- COMMENCEMENT MASS FRIDAY 8TH FEBRUARY
- YEAR 11 2013 INFORMATION EVENING MONDAY 11TH FEBRUARY
- ASH WEDNESDAY 13TH FEBRUARY
- MUSICAL TRY OUTS
- GORDON FETTERPLACE PUBLIC SPEAKING 15TH FEBRUARY
- SWIMMING CARNIVAL - WEDNESDAY 20TH FEBRUARY
REFLECTIONS FROM NEW BOARDERS

Below is an extract from some of the boy’s initial thoughts on St Greg’s Thursday night last week:

‘Next we went to Singing practice. I was thinking to myself, ‘Aw, this isn’t going to be fun!’ we got seated and the hymn lyrics appeared on the television and we started to sing. I was just mumbling / singing so quiet a mouse couldn’t hear me. Then the Year 12 started – Crikey! The roar in their voices was like a thunderstorm! But the nice thing was they could sing really well. I thought I was in the middle of a full blown choir. Everybody was a good singer. I decided I had to step up to the plate and let me voice rumble, but then I remembered I’m a terrible singer!’ Year 10 student

‘A few days have passed and it is only getting better. Singing practice was the best. Just hearing the boys singing at the top of their lungs made me feel great. Thankfully I am having the best time ever, playing football and other things with my new mates. I am loving it so far and I think it will only get better.’ Year 8 student

‘I was excited to come but when the day came I was scared. I have now met some of the boys and they are all great and are good people. I was surprised at the food here because I thought that boarding school would have bad food but it was surprisingly really good.’ Year 11 student

‘So far I think being a Year 7 boarder is cool, singing practice was pretty cool. I made some friends in the house and my room is nice and big. I like having free time talking to my parents on the phone and chatting to mates. I love being a Year 7 boarder. I sometimes hang out with the Year 12 boys when they come to see us.’ Year 7 student

When I first turned up to St Greg’s I thought this was going to be the best decision I have ever made. When the first night came I was a bit worried but then in the morning I had a fresh start with the new friends I had met. We started the day with a great intro assembly. It was a great welcome to the school and then I thought back again that this is the best decision I have made. Year 9 student
BOARDING DIRECTORY

DIRECTOR OF BOARDING
Mr Matthew Brennan
Ph: (02) 4629 4134
Fax: (02) 46290485
Email: matthew.brennan@stregs.nsw.edu.au

SEMAN HOUSE
Mr Max Spencer
Office Ph: (02) 4629 4274
Out of Hours Ph: (02) 4629 4294 / 0437763988 (mobile)
Email: max.spencer@stregs.nsw.edu.au
Student Phone: (02) 4629 4280
Mr Matthew Johnson (SUPERVISOR)

EDGAR HOUSE
Mrs Rebecca Graham
Office Ph: (02) 4629 4106
Out of Hours Ph: (02) 4629 4113 / 0427236721 (mobile)
Email: rebecca.graham@stregs.nsw.edu.au
Student Phone: (02) 4629 4107
Mr Michael McGuigan (SUPERVISOR)

FINGAL HOUSE
Mr Paul Fox
Office Ph: (02) 4629 4108
Out of Hours Ph: (02) 4629 4114 / 0408869854 (mobile)
Email: paul.fox@stregs.nsw.edu.au
Student Phone: (02) 4629 4109
Mr Luke McGinnity (SUPERVISOR)

VALENS HOUSE
Mrs Rachel Newell
Office Ph: (02) 4629 4297
Out of Hours Ph: 46294115 / 0448410910 (mobile)
Email: rachel.newell@stregs.nsw.edu.au
Student Phone: (02) 4629 4111
Miss Kristy Partridge (SUPERVISOR)

Kate Bryan – Registrar Ph: 46294269 FAX – 46 281594 email kate.bryan@stregs.nsw.edu.au
BOADER TRAVEL

All boarders have their first “free weekend” commencing Friday 1st March when they will return home and then return to the College on Monday 4th March. Travel is booked for all full time boarders through Countrylink.

As previously mentioned, the boys will automatically be booked forward to, and returned from, their home town unless notice is given to Kate Bryan of other travel destinations required. This notice is to be provided to Kate by email or fax at least 4 weeks before the intended travel date.

Likewise, if you will be cancelling the travel due to collecting your son from the college yourself or returning him yourself, you will need to advise Kate so that the travel manifests can be amended and buses are then not held up waiting for your son.

From time to time you may have reason for your son to travel to another destination, be it for a family function, wedding or the like, or perhaps they will travel to another boarder’s home for the long weekend. In this case, Countrylink will charge for this travel. Free travel from Countrylink is only available to and from the boarding student’s home town. The fee for the travel fare will be charged to the College and we will then add this to the student’s Fee account.

Three days before travel, an email will be sent to all boarder parents with the itinerary for the travel “movement”. This itinerary will be in an alphabetical table providing details of the time the boys leave the college, the name of the bus company and its code, any stops along the way for meals, times of adjoining buses or trains and arrival time and place. Details of the return journey to the College will also be on this itinerary.

The Itinerary will also be posted on the College website under the Boarder Travel tab a couple of days before the departure date.

Should you have any questions whatsoever regarding boarder travel, please do not hesitate to contact Kate.