



St Gregory's Primary School

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20 January, 2020

Dear Families,

We look forward to welcoming students back to St Gregory's on **Wednesday, 29 January**. A reminder that Parents and Carers are very welcome to our Meet and Greet evening on Tuesday, 28 January from 5:30pm-7pm. This will be an opportunity for our Parent community to formally meet staff and be a part of our 2020 St Gregory's vision. This event will be held in St Gregory's Hall at MacQuoid Street campus.

The Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, and indeed many other regions have been, and continue to be, under threat. The Bushfires are of such a magnitude that most will likely know of people who have lost homes and in some cases, livelihood. Our flora and fauna, already under stress due to the drought, have suffered yet again.

Some good news is that at this stage there has been no significant damage to the twelve schools in the Bushfire zones.

In response to the recent devastating bushfires, please be assured that we will do our utmost to support the school community. There are immediate responses, as well as others, that may be put in place as staff and students return to school.

Air Quality in the School Environment

The air quality in classrooms has been closely monitored, air conditioner filters have been professionally cleaned and serviced. Catholic Education will continue to advise air quality conditions and provide direction for the need to keep students indoors when necessary throughout the coming weeks/months.

Supporting Families

Please contact me directly and we will provide appropriate support. Our commitment to providing quality Catholic education for all those who seek it remains unwavering.

The NSW Government has published the [Bushfire Recovery Assistance](#). This document details a range of assistance measures available.

Counselling

Additional counselling services will be available for staff, students and families who need additional support.

Donations

As part of the Catholic education system, in collaboration with other relevant agencies we will be supporting those impacted by the bushfires.

For now it has been recommended that the best support for those affected by the fires is to provide financial assistance through a donation to one of the following:

- [St Vincent de Paul Society](#)
- [NSW Rural Fire Service](#)
- [Australian Red Cross](#)

Speaking to Children

I have heard from some families that their children are anxious and nervous as a result of the fires. This is understandable and you may be unsure of how best to respond. The following documents may be of assistance:

- [Bushfire Fact Sheet for Parents](#)
- [Advice from Beyond Blue](#)
- [Headspace Mental Health](#)
- [Helping Children Affected by Disasters](#)

Thank You

Thank you to all those who have been actively working to fight fires across our region, or providing services to those impacted by fires. Thank you for your service, dedication and commitment to our community.

I look forward to welcoming your family back to school in the coming weeks.

Warm regards,



Erin Marmont
Principal (Acting)