Dear Parents and Friends of our School Community

‘The Green School’ is a term that I first heard when I moved to Cooma. Although it is a uniquely Cooma term, it is one that is appealing. Green for growth. Green for new ideas.

We all bring our unique shade of green-ness to our learning and our work. May this be a year of real growth.

Not only are we the ‘green school’ but we have a motto that speaks directly to us: Strength in Gentleness.

We had the beautiful scripture reading on the weekend of the Beatitudes, reminding us that those who are humble, gentle, hungry for justice, merciful and peacemakers will have their reward. It is how we should be.

As we begin the year, we remember former colleagues in their new roles: Mark van Ommen, Tina Wawrzyniak, Paul Mackay, Kevin Dunne and Alyson Hulley. I have also reluctantly accepted the resignation of Marg Field, who has been a wonderful part of the Learning Support Team for a long time. We hope that their new roles are personally rewarding.

We now warmly welcome Julie Woolley, Kerrie Harris, Pip Daley, Katrina Joyce, Lisa Haines and Stefanie Cook to new roles.

It’s going to be a great year in The Green School!

Kind regards
Mrs Frances Robertson
Principal

Welcome to the 2017 school year

St Patrick’s Parish School

A School with Altitude

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Coming events

Saturday 4 February
Second hand uniform shop 10.00-11.00am

Wednesday 8 February
Kindergarten—rest/assessment day

Thursday 9 February
Primary Cricket Trials, Gundagai
Open Community Council Meeting 5.30pm

Friday 10 February
Primary swimming carnival
Primary Tennis Trials, Young

Monday 13 February
Yr 7 and Family Retreat Experience

Wednesday 15 February
Kindergarten—rest/assessment day
The school at a glance

POSTAL ADDRESS
PO Box 870
Cooma NSW 2630

PARISH PRIESTS
Fr Mick MacAndrew and Fr George Ogah

PRINCIPAL
Mrs Frances Robertson

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
Mr Steven Joyce- Sem 1, Mary-Ann Fraser- Sem2

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR
Mrs Suzanne Stacey

K-6 COORDINATOR
Ms Stephanie Lovat (Curriculum and Pastoral)

7-10 COORDINATOR
Mrs Pam Fletcher (Curriculum and Pastoral)

OFFICE STAFF
Mrs Sarah Hamilton (Office Manager)
Mrs Jolanta Zieja (Finance Manager)
Mrs Julie Woolley (Clerical Officer P/T)

TEACHING STAFF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Giovanna Davies (K)</th>
<th>Mary-Ann Fraser (Yr 1)</th>
<th>Melinda Barrett (Yr 2 at 0.9)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belinda Wilkins (Yr 3)</td>
<td>Bernadette Moser (Yr 4)</td>
<td>Stephanie Lovat (Yr 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stefanie Cook (Yr 5-0.3 release for SL, Sem 1)</td>
<td>Mike Introna (Yr 6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glenyce Moxon (Yr 6-0.5/Primary Library-0.4)</td>
<td>Steven Joyce (Yr 6-0.5 Sem 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angie Introna (CST-T,W, 1/2Th)</td>
<td>Tina Rooney (RFF-0.64)</td>
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<td>Emma Hill (Classroom Support-M,T, Yr2 for half Tues)</td>
<td>Kellie Summerville (LNAP-0.5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Katrina Joyce (K-6 Wellbeing Support-0.1)</td>
<td>Tim Lawley (PDHPE, Rep sport)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pip Daley (PDHPE/ Maths/ Prim Sec Carnivals/ Sec Wellbeing)</td>
<td>Kerrie Harris (Maths/HSIE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amanda Knott (Maths STreEM, HSIE. ICT)</td>
<td>Rashida Nuridin (VA/Digital media)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luaun Edwards (TAS/HSIE)</td>
<td>Danielle Trigg (Science/RE)</td>
<td>Steve Summerville (Science/Maths)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lou Mackay (RE/English/Sec CST)</td>
<td>Sue Stubbs (English/ Sec Literacy &amp; Library)</td>
<td>Pam Fletcher (TAS/Food Tech/Maths)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suzanne Stacey (RE/English / Drama/LNAP support)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

SUPPORT STAFF
Mrs Miesje Blumer (CSA-Sec, AITSI support)
Mrs Lisa Haines (CSA-Prim)  Mrs Rebecca Hain (CSA-Sec)
Mrs Rebecca Croke (Canteen-T,W,Th, F)
Mr Don Southwell  (Grounds/Maintenance)
Mr Dan Marks  (ICT)  Mrs Joyce Venables (Infants cleaning)
A warm welcome back to you all for the 2017 school year. I hope that all families had a lovely Christmas with family and friends and I trust that you are feeling refreshed for another great year.

It was a pleasure to see our students return with happy and excited faces. I know the teachers are looking forward to watching them as they grow and take on new experiences this year.

I would also like to say a big 'thank you' to all the St Patrick’s staff for all the hard work they have put into their planning and preparation throughout January. As a parent myself, it is comforting that we have such dedicated teachers. Every time I drove past the school during the holidays, I would see half a dozen cars scattered across the school grounds.

There will be many occasions throughout the year when you will be invited to participate in activities with the children. As always, if you are unsure of something, or have any concerns, please ask a member of staff who will be only too willing to assist you.

How parents and carers can get connected to the school:

1. Make contact with your child’s teacher and keep in touch. Ask for help if you don’t understand something.
2. Check for notices that are sent home and keep informed about school activities through the school newsletter and Facebook page.
3. Attend information sessions and social activities at the school whenever you can.
4. Make contact with other parents and carers at your school; perhaps meet up informally with parents or carers of other children in your child’s class, become a Class Parent, or join a parent committee.
5. Take an interest in the Community Council and consider joining it.

We look forward to catching up with many of you during the upcoming weeks and encourage each of you to take up the opportunity to meet with your child’s class teacher in Week 6 to talk about how your child(ren) have settled into their new classroom(s).

This semester I will be sharing the Year 6 class with Mrs Glenyce Moxon as I take on the role of Assistant Principal. I will be undertaking those duties each morning and for the full day on Monday and Wednesday. I can easily be contacted on steven.joyce@cg.catholic.edu.au or by booking an appointment through the office.

I look forward to working with every one of you at some point throughout the year.

Yours sincerely,

Steven Joyce
Assistant Principal
Safety first

1. We want our students to be **safe users of the internet**. There is an **Internet User’s Agreement** which outlines the expectations and guidelines. Students in K-6 have a modified one for you to see and sign. In Years 7-10, students will re-sign their previous document after some discussion and reminders about their responsibilities. New students will receive a new form, which parents will be required to sign.

2. **Carparks are for cars**, not people. Please don’t walk through them, especially with children.

3. **Pedestrian crossings are for people.** Please use them and don’t cross the road at random spots. When driving, slow down and watch out for our precious students.

3. **Arrival time for all students is after 8.30am.** The gates will still be closed before then, as there is no supervision available until 8.30am.

4. **Leaving time is after the last afternoon bell at 3.25pm** or until the last bus leaves. Students should not be on school grounds outside of these times, unless it is a designated school event.

5 **Bus zones are for buses.** Secondary students must not exit the side gate unless accompanied by an adult. There are other exits via Soho St and Vale St.

6 **Bikes and scooters must be walked** around the school area and stored in the designated places.

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An exciting year ahead in our faith journey...

We will start our faith journey by welcoming our **Year 7 students** to high school with a special **Welcome Retreat Day on Monday 13 Feb.**

We will then welcome in the new school year and our new school leaders at our **Opening School Liturgy on Tuesday 21 Feb.**

We look forward to celebrating the life of our school with our **St Patrick’s Day Liturgy on Friday 17 March** and finishing the term with our Easter Celebration on Friday 7 April.

This year there are many points of celebration within the church and we hope you will join us in celebrating family Mass, as well as taking part in **Children’s Liturgy which is offered at the 10am Mass on the first Sunday of each month.**

Our **Confirmation for Year 6 students will take place on Sunday 11 June** and our **Year 3 students will make their First Communion on the weekend of 4/5 of November.** Please mark these dates in your calendar and keep these students in your prayers.

If you have any questions regarding your child’s faith journey at the school please contact our Religious Education Coordinator, Mrs Suzanne Stacey, on rec.stpatscooma@cg.catholic.edu.au
Secondary Campus News...

St Patrick's is a place of learning. We have begun the school term with excitement about some new learning opportunities in Secondary. New programs have been written, new assessment tasks designed and new courses are commencing.

Year 7 students will be undertaking a brand new course that integrates both the Science and technology areas and the social justice aspect of our Catholic faith. There is more information coming about this.

This year we are introducing a new language for the Year 8 students: Japanese!

A large variety of electives are on offer for the Year 9 and 10 students, ranging from digital media to agriculture, visual arts to drama, commerce to food technology, industrial arts to physical activity and sport study.

There are good reasons to be looking forward to learning in Secondary!

I can be contacted via email on pam.fletcher@cg.catholic.edu.au.

Pam Fletcher
Secondary Coordinator

Primary Campus News...

Welcome to the 2017 school year in Primary! As K-6 Coordinator, I would like to extend a warm welcome on behalf of the K-6 staff to all our new Kindergarten students and the other new children across the other classes in the Infants and Primary.

We welcome our new families to the St Patrick’s community and look forward to getting to know you and working with you over the coming years. I can be contacted by email stephanie.lovat@cg.catholic.edu.au

There was certainly a buzz of excitement from teachers, students and parents on Tuesday and Wednesday morning upon the students’ return.

In the last three days, the children have been busy establishing classroom expectations with their new teachers. This helps to build community and clarify the common understandings about how we will best operate to be a busy, happy and productive classroom.

We are also revising the expectations of St Patrick’s. We are a place of learning, safety and belonging. Each of these areas has clear expectations. These will be printed in next week’s newsletter.

We have a great year planned and look forward to working with you all.

Stephanie Lovat
Protecting children with allergies to nuts

St Patrick's School has a small number of students who suffer from severe nut allergies. In order to provide a safe environment for these children, the school is promoting a nut-free environment.

Anaphylaxis
Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of allergic reaction. The symptoms of anaphylactic shock may include hives, swelling, watery eyes, runny nose, vomiting, diarrhoea, stomach cramps, coughing, wheezing, throat tightness/closing, difficulty swallowing, difficulty breathing, dizziness, fainting, loss of consciousness or a change of skin colour. The most dangerous symptoms are breathing difficulties or a drop in blood pressure, which can be potentially fatal. These allergic reactions are normally very quick, symptoms usually becoming apparent immediately as the person comes in contact with the allergen, and can threaten the allergic person's life within minutes.

At present, there is no cure for anaphylaxis and very few people with nut anaphylaxis will ever grow out of it. A tiny amount of the allergen, a trace amount, is enough to cause a reaction that will threaten the life of these allergic children.

Therefore...
In order to protect students with allergies to peanuts and similar nut products, St Patrick's School has a policy that no food containing nuts should be brought to school. The canteen does not sell any nut products and nut products are not used in Food Technology or any other faculty.

Products that contain nuts include Peanut Butter, Nutella, fruit and nut bars, chocolate and any other products that have nuts listed in their ingredients. This does not include products that contain the warning "may contain traces of nuts".

Whilst it is not possible to guarantee that nut products will not be in the school, we request all members of the St Patrick's community to make every effort to support this policy so as to ensure the safety and well being of all students.

Because quite a few children experience allergies or intolerances to a variety of food products, students are to ensure they do not swap or share food and drinks. Parents of students with an allergic reaction to nuts or other foods are to inform the school prior to commencement and play a key part in the development of an action plan for their child.

School uniforms boost school spirit!
Helping to build a sense of community within the school, uniforms create an atmosphere of belonging. This essence of unity can positively affect a child's attitude toward school and can lead to better learning and improved attendance. Through simplicity, uniforms promote time efficiency, organisation, and neatness. School uniforms encourage individual self-expression because with uniforms, students find ways to express themselves creatively, rather than through their clothes - through the arts, music, sports, personality and academic achievement.

Thank you to all families who have complied with requests to adhere to the uniform guidelines. The school has agreed on certain standards and these are outlined in the Student Planner on page 13 &14 or on the school's website http://stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au/enrolment/

In particular, parents are asked to monitor their child's presentation, ensuring that the details are followed. This includes; dresses to at least knee length, no visible make-up or nail polish, plain black or grey belts, correct shoes and hat wear for all PE and outdoors activities.

As it gets cooler and we plan for the purchase of the winter uniform, all families need to check the guidelines about the wearing of black coats, scarves, gloves and beanies. These must not have visible brand names.

When there are difficulties in wearing the correct uniform, all students are required to have an explanatory note from the parents.
CATHOLIC EDUCATION STUDENTS YEARN TO LEARN CONFERENCE

Last Friday, Mr Ross Fox, the new Director of Catholic Education, welcomed over 2,500 participants at the National Convention Centre, Canberra, to a conference entitled ‘Students Yearn to Learn’ which will mark the beginning of the school year in Catholic Education.

The Conference featured internationally recognised speakers including Professor Alfie Kohn, Kath Murdoch, Professor Tom Lowrie and Erin Erceg. The Conference was an outstanding opportunity for professional learning and engagement with our educational vision across the 56 Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn. The Master of Ceremonies for this event was Mr Jeff McMullen.

The Conference theme was Engaging the Hearts and Minds of 21st Century Learners. The purpose of the Conference was to explore the role of teaching as facilitating and illuminating meaning through inquiry, collaboration and reflection on experience. It also explored the importance of wellbeing to enhance learning.

All of St Patrick’s staff attended.
Welcome back to the Canteen in 2017!

A huge welcome to all the new Kindergarten and Year 7 families.

This morning I dropped my own daughter off for her first day of kindergarten and it was so wonderful to see so many happy faces. The first days of kindergarten can be quite an emotional time for parents as well as the children and it was lovely to see so many people there to support our families as we transition into a new and exciting phase of our lives. I look forward to getting to know parents of the other children throughout the school.

The canteen door is always open and I hope to get a chance to meet with you all at some stage.
The canteen is always in need of volunteers to help us keep it running and is a great way to meet other parents and get involved in our school community.

Just as a reminder for everyone: The Canteen operates Tuesday to Friday.

Each week on Wednesday starting from next week, we will have mini canteen within the Infants and Primary campuses. This is an opportunity for students to purchase small items for themselves and it is a great way for them to learn about money and how to handle it. Items cost between 50c and $2.

Mini canteen also relies on volunteers to be able to run it each week and we are currently in need of a couple of extra volunteers, so if you could spare about 45 minutes on a Wednesday from 1.15pm to 2pm please contact me.

If anyone has any dietary requirements or would like to contact me with suggestions for the canteen please don't hesitate to drop in, call the office on 64521721. You can email me at rebecca.croke@cg.catholic.edu.au

I hope everyone has a wonderful year and look forward to seeing everyone back on Wednesday.

Rebecca Croke
Canteen Manager

St Mary MacKillop College News

For parents of the current Year 11 students at MacKillop College, there will an Information Evening at the RSL at 5.30 pm on 8 February. This is a repeat of the one held at MacKillop College to save parents travelling to Canberra. All are welcome.

Home Learning Support ...

Homework and assessments can build up and sometimes, a little bit of support and a regular routine can make all the difference. Every Thursday afternoon, from 3.30pm - 4.30pm, a homework support group is offered in the Secondary Library. Afternoon tea is provided. Two teachers will be in attendance. Access to computers is available. Parents are required to collect their children at 4.30pm. All are welcome.

Lou Mackay Coordinator