Dear Parents and St Patrick’s Community

What a special time it is in the life of both the Parish and the school, as we witnessed the students making their First Holy Communion last weekend.

In saying “Amen” for the first time to the Body of Jesus Christ, these children became one with Jesus in a new way, becoming joined more deeply to the Body of Christ, his Church. In faith, both parents and teachers brought the child, not just to the one moment of First Holy Communion, but also to a new life with Christ. The Eucharist is food like no other food and the memory of this first step in the journey should last a life-time.

Whilst the parents’ role in this process is crucial, the whole parish community walks with them on this journey in both prayer and practical support- teachers, catechists, Parish staff, the Religious Education Coordinator, the priests and other parishioners. Thank you to the many people who helped to make this Sacrament such a special time.

There are many lovely photos inside the newsletter and on the school’s facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/StPatsCooma).

The NSW Government has provided an additional $42.5 million over four years to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes in K-2 for some 9,000 students in 99 NSW Catholic primary schools.

In 2017, our school is lucky enough to be a recipient of a small part of that funding. Early intervention in the first few years of schooling is a very effective step and we have already seen the positive results from some changes we have made to the overall learning programs and specific support given to some students. For example, we measure accuracy in reading, using a standardised assessment, and already most students are reaching the ‘benchmark’ for their year group and we still have a term to go. Also for the last three years, we have seen improvement in NAPLAN for Year 3.

It will be great to keep expanding our programs to support literacy and numeracy development in K-2. It is foundational to future success.

Peace and blessings to all.

Frances Robertson
Principal

"I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst." - John 6:35

SPECIAL DATES TO REMEMBER

Thursday 3 November
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

Friday 4 November
Year 7 2017 SPOT Day transition to high school 9 - 11.30am

Monday 7 November
Musica Viva

Tuesday 8 November
Yr 3/4 Netball Carnival

Thursday 10 November
Yr 6 Team Skills - Cooba

Friday 11 November
Yr 6 Team Skills - Cooba
K-5 Transition Day
KinderStart 12.30pm
From the AP’s Desk

Year 8 and 9 Elective choices 2017

All students entering Stage 5 at St Patrick’s are required to study Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography and Personal Development/Health/Physical Education. Each year students in Year 8 are given the choice of two electives.

These are in addition to the core subjects that every student in NSW must study. Satisfactory participation in electives is required for the Record of School Achievement (RoSA) at the end of Year 10.

In 2017, we will be offering up to 10 different electives, including some new and exciting ones.

The students’ choices will largely determine which electives run in the following year. At this stage, we are aiming to offer electives as a year long course, with the option of having another choice in Year 10. There are no pre-requisites for Year 11 and 12, in either NSW or ACT, so this is a great opportunity to try out some different options.

The process to select electives will begin next week:

- Staff have compiled elective information which will be made available to students in a booklet.
- Students will be given this booklet at a special meeting where teachers also have the chance to speak about and explain the electives they are offering.
- Students are then given a sheet of possible preferences, where they indicate their preferences 1-4. Students should take the sheets home and with their parents read through the elective booklet and discuss their choices. Checking in with the Homeroom teacher is also recommended.
- The elective preference sheets are returned to the Office by the following Monday.
- The elective lines are determined from the student choices. An elective line is a spot on the timetable where electives occur.

Usually students get both their 1st and 2nd choice. If we have to look at the 3rd or 4th choices of any student, we will see them individually.

It is important that students choose electives based on what they are interested in, rather than what their friends are doing.

Because we are offering possible new electives, Year 9 students will also attend the elective meeting and be given a preferences sheet. However, at this stage, students in Year 9 may request to change only one of their current electives. This will be based on class sizes.

If parents have any questions, they may contact Mrs Robertson or me. We are very happy to make time to answer individual questions. This could be a face to face meeting, a phone call or via email.

We look forward to helping students to develop their skill and interest in a variety of electives.

God bless

Mark van Ommen
Assistant Principal
Congratulations to all our First Communicants
**SPOT days**

This Friday, students in Year 6 get a taste of high school. The SPOT (St Patrick's Orientation Time) days are designed to familiarise students with the structure of lessons at High School, learn where rooms are located, order from the canteen and experience two lessons.

Over the past two years we have deliberately looked for ways that Primary students can have more experiences in Secondary. For example, Year 5 and 6 classes have used the Secondary Science Laboratory to conduct experiments, supervised by Mr Summerville. Their involvement in the end of term activities for Secondary has also been very positive.

Our hope is that the SPOT day contact by Year 6 students with Secondary teachers and increased use of Secondary facilities will make the transition to High School at St Patrick's a very smooth transition.

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**THE 2016 NATIONAL CHURCH LIFE SURVEY IS UNDERWAY**

NCLS Research is pleased to announce that the 2016 National Church Life Survey is underway in thousands of churches across Australia, during October and November. This year’s survey continues the world’s largest longitudinal study of church life, reaching 25 years in 2016. Churches are currently taking part.

NCLS Research focuses on these areas: Who Goes to Church, Healthy Churches, Leadership, Spirituality and Wider Community & Wellbeing.

Archbishop Prowse is inviting all members of our Church to respond and details can be obtained from Fr Mick.

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**REFLECTIONS OF THE MACLAUGHLIN**

*WORKS OF THE MONKS & FRIENDS AT HOLY TRANSFIGURATION MONASTERY ON THE MACLAUGHLIN*

**OPENING: 3PM SATURDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2016**

**CLOSING: SUNDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2016**

**VENUE: THE RAGLAN GALLERY, 9-11 LAMBIE ST, COOMA**

**MUSIC BY STRING THEORY**
At the end of the assembly, Year 6 presented their Kindergarten Buddy with a picture book that they had written in the second half of Term 3.
News from 4M
Life is perfect in 4M! Maths, Science and gardening. It just doesn’t get better than this!
Welcome to Kindergarten 2017 for their first Kinderstart day!

All aboard for the Kinder Train!

The next Kinderstart Day is Friday 11 November at 12.30.
Have you purchased your tickets yet?

The Monaro Committee for Cancer Research presents a beautifully relaxed day in the parkland gardens of an historic homestead.

Marquees will be scattered around the parkland with stalls offering a collection of gifts for Christmas including gourmet food, lucky dip bags, local homemade ware, jewellery, candles, soaps and more. A delicious lunch is served.

Champagne is served on arrival with guests able to purchase additional drinks.

It is a day not to be missed!

In the public eye!

Last weekend, at the Rotary District Conference in Goulburn, Riley Marks presented her award winning speech to over 300 people. At the same conference, Jasmin Statham Smith was invited to present the overview of the Interact Club developed here in Cooma. Jasmin has been invited to attend local Rotary clubs to share the work of the Interact Club. Both students were very impressive.
2017 Premier’s ANZAC Memorial Scholarship

Each year, the Premier’s Anzac Memorial Scholarship School Tour travels to battlefields in Europe and Asia, which have special significance to Australian troops. During the Centenary of Anzac, the tours will concentrate on the Western Front in France and Belgium. In 2017, scholars will be travelling to Flanders to commemorate the Third Battle of Ypres, the major British offensive in Flanders in 1917.

This is a significant opportunity for your school to send a student to the Western Front as a Premier’s scholar, representing NSW at commemorative services, and learning about the sacrifice and service of the brave Anzacs. We invite all NSW schools, Government, Catholic and Independent, to submit an online Expression of Interest (EOI) via the Veterans’ Affairs NSW Government website: www.veterans.nsw.gov.au. Applications close at 5:00pm on 14 November 2016 and no late EOIs will be accepted. Schools must be prepared to release students for the duration of the tour, and must abide by the attached local selection guidelines. If you require assistance in completing the EOI please contact Veterans’ Affairs by phone on (02) 9228 4710.

A ballot will be held on 21 November 2016 to draw 20 schools. Each school that is drawn in the ballot will be responsible for undertaking a local process to select one (1) student who is enrolled in either Year 10 or 11 in 2017. The ballot and the local selection process is designed to ensure that all schools have an opportunity to participate.

Yours sincerely

David Elliott MP
MINISTER FOR CORRECTIONS
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS

SELECTION PROCESS:

Students will follow a two-stage selection process:

Stage 1 – Students will submit a piece of work on a theme or topic that relates to the Centenary of Anzac. It needs to be appropriate to the level of the student and doesn’t need to be related to a subject being studied. Guidelines for appropriate topics or themes will be provided to successful schools in December 2016.

Examples may include:

- Essay of 1000 words (word count does not include references or footnotes)
- Poem or short story
- Audio presentation (maximum 10 minutes)
- Video presentation (maximum 10 minutes)
- Musical composition – a song or instrumental
- Digital presentation
- Web page or PowerPoint
- Artwork – painting, drawing, photograph or textile

Stage 2 – A school/community panel will be established to consider the work submitted and shortlist students who will then be invited to present their work to the panel in an interview setting. Students can choose the work sample they submit to support their application. Students will also be required to demonstrate that they have the qualities and attributes to be an appropriate representative of NSW at this important event.

At the interview stage, students will be asked to discuss their work and how it relates to the topic that has been set. The panel will be required to assess:

- The quality of the student’s submission and their presentation.
- Their capacity to undertake the tour.
- If they will be an appropriate representative of NSW in the tour setting.
- Their ability to communicate effectively on his or her return (upon their return from the tour students will be expected to share their experiences with their school and the community).
Canteen News

It was so wonderful seeing all the Yr 3 and 4 students visiting the canteen last week and I especially love that they all remembered their manners.

What a pleasant surprise to see the sun this week. As it seems to now be finally warming up I will be stocking the fridge with more salads and wraps. If everyone could please check the new menu for this term before ordering I would be extremely grateful as there are new things on the menu and a few small price changes.

A massive thank you to Kelly Gill and Nicole Withers for their help on Friday. You girls are legends! Also a special shout out to the Year 5 and Year 10 students who jumped in and helped out. I am so very proud of you all.

This week’s Volunteers

Thursday 3/11   Chris Haylock          Year 10   Caitlin
Friday 4/11    Elsa Wagner            Year 10   Thomas

Rebecca Croke
Canteen Manager

K-2 Parents

Sundowner Cup - Cooma Races

Saturday 3 December 2016
(Cooma Racecourse)

WE NEED YOUR HELP PLEASE!

Each year St Patrick’s caters at the Cooma Races, Sundowner Cup. This is one of Cooma’s Social Highlights of the Year. This event is one of our major fundraisers for St Patrick’s. This money is used for enhanced educational learning, new equipment, maintenance and those special things that all our children will benefit from on their way through from Infants, Primary and our Secondary Campus. We would love to see our families involvement prior to and present on the day. Why not come along and join in on the festivities.

Please contact via email:

Lucinda George: Lumargeo@yahoo.com or
Erika Statham: SalemCharming@gmail.com

We look forward to hearing from all of you.

St Patrick’s Community Council - Cooma Race Committee
Nutrition Snippet

The simplest way
...to pack a healthy lunch box.

Packing a healthy lunch box is as simple as including each of these food groups. And you can combine several in a single item.

Try a pita pocket (bread) with lamb kofta (meat) and tabbouleh (salad).

Or go for a tub of whole or puréed berries with natural yoghurt for a fruit and dairy combo.
The Canberra Girls’ Programming Network is a community for female students to learn about computer programming and technology through hands-on workshops. It gives girls exposure to female role models across academia, government and industry.

Our next workshop will be held on November 27th!

What

The workshop topic is Markov Chains. Markov Chains allow us to find the probability of an event happening based on what happened directly before. Using text generators and Markov Chains, we can create whole sentences and paragraphs by “predicting” a word based on the previous word in the sentence. We can then increase the accuracy of the paragraph by “training” our Markov Chain.

Where

Gungahlin College, 23 Gozzard St, Gungahlin ACT 2912

When

- Sunday, November 27th
- Please arrive by 9:30am for registration
- Workshop begins at 10am
- Parents and teachers invited at 3:30pm
- Conclude by 4pm

Who

Female students from grades 4 to 12.

What do I need to know

Absolutely no coding experience necessary! We cater for girls of all programming skill levels.

How do I register?

You’ll need to register to attend. Please send an email to asd.dish@defence.gov.au, visit canberragpn.github.io or have a chat with your IT teacher to get the registration forms. Places are limited, so please return your registration forms by Monday, 21 November 2016 to asd.dish@defence.gov.au.

You will receive information and confirmation via email prior to the workshop day.

*There has never been a more exciting time to be a girl in IT!*