The word Advent derives from the Latin word meaning coming. The Lord is coming. The season of Advent is the time of preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas.

The themes most often used for the four weeks of Advent are Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

Most churches have at the heart of their worship an Advent wreath. The circle of greenery reminds us that God is eternal, the Alpha and Omega without beginning or end, and also of the hope we have in God, of newness, renewal and eternal life.

The candles symbolise the light of God entering the world through the birth of Jesus, and the four outer candles represent a period of waiting. Whilst the light from the candles reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world that comes into the darkness of our life, it also reminds us that we are called to be a light to the world as we reflect the light of God's love and grace to others.

Disability is not Inability

International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD) is a United Nations sanctioned day that aims to promote an understanding of people with disability and encourage public awareness, acceptance and celebration of their achievements and contributions. It is a good time to remember that disability is not inability. Our students in Year 8 will be celebrating ability this week through DrumBeat. See photos inside.

I recently watched a clip on Facebook of a former student of mine do tightrope walking. This student, Joany Badenhorst, has a prosthetic leg after a terrible tractor accident that ripped off her left leg when she was 8 years old. Tightrope walking... with one leg!

She is also a member of the Paralympic snowboarding team, something that she achieved in just one year from starting the sport. With Para-snowboarding making its debut on the Paralympic program for the first time in 2014, Joany was the first female from Australia to compete in the sport on the world’s biggest stage.

Disability is certainly not her inability! The challenge for all us is to see the possibilities in everyone. Joany taught me that.

Yours in hope

Frances Robertson
Principal
From the AP’s Desk

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

Contact details
I need to remind parents to ensure their contact details are up to date. There continues to be times when we urgently need to contact a parent or carer and the number provided is disconnected or it rings out. Parents also need to ensure that the school has their current email address. This email address needs to be one where we can send through the newsletter or other school information. We are aware that some work emails have certain protocols in relation to the receiving of information, but we will use the email address provided unless we hear otherwise.

Award days
The Primary and Secondary award days are coming up. This is a formal occasion where we present and celebrate the achievements of students.

For ALL Awards ceremonies students must be in full summer uniform, NOT sports uniform. Shoes should be polished.

School leaders 2015
Congratulations to all those elected to leadership positions in 2015.

Even if you did not attain a leadership position, there are always many opportunities to become involved and show leadership through the year.

Calendar for 2015
The school calendar is already quite full. We have tried to put as many dates we know of on the calendar as early as possible.

Phillip Hughes
The news this week has been dominated by the tragic death of Phillip Hughes. Two aspects of this terrible event stood out. First, the way the media and cricket community has supported Sean Abbott was encouraging and entirely appropriate. No blame was directed to the bowler. There was a genuine concern for his well-being and unanimous endorsement that he did nothing wrong. Second, the way Michael Clarke acted during this period reaffirmed his quality as a leader and human being. Who could not be moved by his press conference this week? Students who aspire to leadership have a wonderful role model in Michael.

Therefore, this week we pray for all those who are experiencing or have experienced loss. May they be comforted by their faith and belief that the most terrible of circumstances can often provide opportunities for personal growth.

Thank you
Mark van Ommen
Assistant Principal

and coming events....

Friday 5 December
K-6 Awards Day 12.30pm Ex-Services Club

Saturday 6 December
P&F Catering Cooma Races

Monday 8 December
K-6 Swimming
Yr 10 Community Service Day

Tuesday 9 December
Yr 10 Farwell Dinner
K-6 Swimming
Kinder Visit to Town Library
Stage 3 Puberty and personal development program

Wednesday 10 December
Yr 10 Community Service Day
K-6 Swimming

Thursday 11 December
Yr 10 Picnic Day
K-6 Swimming

Friday 12 December
Yr 7-10 Awards Day 1.30pm at Church
Y10 Graduation Liturgy
K-6 Swimming

Monday 15 December
K-2 Santa Visit
FRIDAY MEAL DEAL
Chicken Burger + Quelch Ice Block $5
** Please add drinks or other items as required **

With the end of the year approaching, there’s a chance I won’t re-stock a few items until next term. Currently, there are no more frozen yoghurts but everything else is still available. My plan as we reach the end of term is that it’s business as usual until the last day of school.

There are still some outstanding Secondary student IOU’s. An invoice will be sent home for any student IOU’s still unpaid at the end of this week. Although I’m chasing up IOU’s, please be reassured that if a student genuinely does not have recess or lunch, I will always provide them with food from the canteen.

Volunteers for the next week:
Wednesday 03/12: 10am Marjorie Revelant
Thursday 04/12: 10am Rebecca Croke
Friday 05/12: 10am Sara Souter, 12.30pm Howard Brown
Wednesday 10/12: 10am Grant Pascoe
Thursday 11/12: 10am Kim Kleven
Friday 12/12: 10am Chris Haylock

* for sale * for sale * for sale * for sale * for sale * for sale *

REUSABLE LUNCH ORDER BAGS are still available for $10.50 (order form on school website). Please consider investing in one of these if you get regular lunch orders, or are unable to provide paper bags. They make life much easier for canteen staff and students!

The canteen currently has in stock WATER-PROOF DRAWSTRING BAGS, perfect for swimming lessons and other sports. Blue or pink patterns available, $9 each. Please send order and payment to the canteen or drop in Tues-Fri 9-2pm.

![image of lunch order bags]

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Caroline Blyton
Canteen Manager

PS. Put the code word “PURPLE” on your lunch order up to and including this Friday 5 December, and you’ll receive a yummy surprise to thank you for reading the Canteen News.
Catering for the Cooma Races

Thank you to the above people for supporting the school’s commitment to cater for the Cooma Races. This major fundraiser is crucial for ensuring that there are adequate funds to fit-out the proposed new building in 2015-2016. There are still spaces to fill on this roster and we would love your name (and perhaps a friend’s name) to be added, especially after 2pm.

If you can give just one hour (or more), please contact Karen McGufficke (mobile 0417 496708).

The more the merrier!

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YOUR NAME?  

A FRIEND’S NAME?  

www.stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au
Student Leadership

Over the last few weeks there have been nominations for student leadership positions. The Leadership Team for the Primary will be announced at the K-6 Awards ceremony.

For Year 7-10, there were formal speeches last Friday. Students spoke thoughtfully. They were not boastful of their achievements but demonstrated a real commitment to this school. Their intentions were to be inclusive of others and to be focused on working as a team. Their speeches were followed by formal interviews. Again, they demonstrated that they wanted to ‘hold true’ to what this school stands for and be a respectful and proud representative.

The Student Leadership Team will consist of eight members; four girls and four boys. This group will combine to vote for the School Captains. These two students will be announced later this week.

The Nativity scene is set up & the wreath has been presented
TERM 4 School Fees

Term 4 school fee account payments are due by 15 December 2014 at the latest. It is St Patrick's and Diocesan policy that your account be well maintained, which in turn allows the school to operate on a sound financial basis and provide the resources necessary to provide quality education for all students.

We are obliged to manage our fee accounts and, if necessary, forward any arrears accounts for debt recovery procedures. Should the fee account fall into arrears by more than 90 days & no payment arrangement has been put into place we may, at our discretion, forward the account to a Debt Collection Agency for recovery proceedings which will result in additional fees, charges being borne by you and possibly marring your overall credit rating.

We will be contacting some families for account arrears/review appointments. Feel free to contact the Principal or Finance Manager (Mrs Debbie Moon) should you wish to discuss your account.

DRUM BEAT with Year 8
Art ...in the great outdoors

The Year 7 art class ventured outdoors on Monday in search of an inspiring building to draw and what better example than our own school. Under the shade of the garden, students explored the concept of perspective and developed their observational drawing skills by reproducing a likeness of the main convent building as seen from the entrance, and what amazing work they produced. It is inspirational to see such talent and to observe students impress themselves with their own wonderful creations.

Rashida Nuridin   Visual Arts Teacher
As a final fundraiser for 2014, the Mini Vinnies group would like to raise money for two schools and orphanages in India for abandoned and destitute children. St Patrick's Parish has been supporting St Joseph’s Orphanage for the last two years and due to need, another orphanage and school called St Thomas has been opened in Mydukur, Andhra Pradesh.

St Joseph’s Orphanage is in Mariapuram, Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh, India. There are about 560 students in the school. Students are from the poorest of poor background families. Most of them face discrimination in their society due to their lower caste status. The school strives to empower them with education and to supply shelter and food to orphans, semi orphans and to students whose families have financial problems. There are nearly 160 children in boarding at present. The school depends solely in the providence of God and the generosity of people.

We would like to have a raffle to raise money for these schools and would like to ask all parents and carers if they could please send in any items that could be used to create Christmas baskets OR any items that could be used on their own as raffle prizes, such as store or restaurant vouchers, accommodation, etc. The Christmas baskets could include chocolates, toys, kitchen items, decorations, etc.

Please send these items or vouchers to school by Wednesday 3 December.

We will also have a special casual clothes day on Thursday 11 December. Students will be invited to wear neat, sun safe, fun clothing (with covered shoes) and bring a gold coin. There will be more information about this later in the week, as the Mini Vinnies group is currently deciding a possible theme.

Thank you in anticipation of your support. This is one way we can show students how important and rewarding it is to give to the poor and to show Christian values in action.

‘The Brown Box’

The Brown Box will be open this Saturday and next from 10am until 2pm for Christmas craft if you want to bring the family along to make Christmas gifts.
Students Who Achieve Greatness

- Arthur Bottom
- Rory Cochran
- Tyrell Bartlett
- Joseph Nichols
- Kalim Khoury
- Cooper Inskip
- Kiah Joyce
- Sophie Janota
- Alex Smith
- Erin Alexander
- Madeline Stott
- Charlie Dowton

Talent on the volleyball court
Rural Fire Service Cadetship
News from Kindergarten

As the year quickly draws to a close Kindergarten have begun preparations for Christmas including creating our own Advent calendar, listening to the story of Jesus’ birth and decorating the Christmas tree for the breakout space.

Last week Mr Mackay joined Kindergarten in our Godly Play session as we learnt about the importance of waiting and preparing for Christmas. We are looking forward to Mr Mackay’s return this week to listen to more stories about this important time of year.

All K-6 students need to wear their full school uniform this Friday for the Awards ceremony.

K-2 Christmas Concert

When: Tuesday 16 December 2014
Time: 12:30 pm
Venue: K-2 Campus

On behalf of everyone at St. Patrick’s Parish School, we pray that you have a safe and happy Christmas!