Dear St Patrick’s Community

Jesus said, "Those who show mercy will have mercy shown to them" (Matthew 5:7). We need to make sure that we are always waiting with ‘hands widely cupped under the waterfall of mercy.’ (Richard Rohr) Two thousand years of Jesus’ teaching on compassion, love, forgiveness, and mercy (not to mention basic kindness and respect) can be all but forgotten if we are not attentive to this most basic quality. This week Fr Mick has arranged a copy of the booklet called ‘Mercy’ for every family. I hope that you find it valuable.

This week, I have spent time with Year 10 listening to and reading their opinions on learning at our school. We also talked about the value of carefully choosing ways to support their learning. This included work experience. There will be a letter to parents reflecting the changes in this program. The students agreed that they wish to have a flexible program throughout the year and not to be locked into a set time and a set agenda.

Thank you to the parents who attended the P&F meeting last week. The preparations for the Mother’s Day annual fundraiser are well under way. We are also having a special raffle this year and every family will be given the opportunity to purchase tickets for some worthwhile prizes.

If you want some interesting reading check out this site: [http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/tracy-gillet/children-mental-health_b_9400848.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/tracy-gillet/children-mental-health_b_9400848.html) You will gain an interesting perspective on the value of simplifying childhood.

Thank you to our staff, students and parent community for a wonderful start to 2016. It has been a very productive and happy Term 1. I hope that the family time in the next few weeks will also be happy. See you all on ANZAC Day.

With kind regards

Frances Robertson
Principal

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Each day, by doing acts of mercy, we can all be the visible face of Jesus in the world.

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St Patrick’s Parish School, Cooma
A school with altitude and fresh air thinking

Special dates
- 7 April Secondary Athletics Carnival
- 8 April Secondary Term 1 Awards Assembly 1:00pm
- 8 April Last day Term 1
- 25 April ANZAC day march
- 26 April Staff Planning Day
- 27 April Students return for Term 2
- 27 April MacKillop Open Day—Y10 students

Check out the school calendar for more dates! Visit [http://stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au/communication/calendar.html](http://stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au/communication/calendar.html)

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In this issue:
- From the AP’s desk
- Uniform matters
- Mother’s Day Stall and raffle
- Year 10 Sydney Excursion
From the AP’s Desk...

We are always looking for opportunities for our students to have different learning experiences.

This week Ms Knott attended a meeting to promote the inclusion of girls in special workshops for programming and coding. The University of Sydney started this program in 2009 and it is coming to Canberra very soon. It aims to build confidence and competence for girls with the support of female mentors. The ASD Security Hub and the Department of Defence are backing this. There are only 20 places, so we are hoping our applications for a place will be successful.

Mrs Stubbs is beginning the preparation for the da Vinci Decathlon to take place in Canberra on 31 May. There is also extensive preparation happening with students preparing their debating skills in readiness for the competition starting soon.

Ms Trigg has sought expressions of interest for students who are interested in RYPEN, a Rotary International conference for youth. One of our Year 10 students, Jasmin Statham-Smith has been selected from a range of candidates to attend the 2016 Rotary International Conference in Seoul, Korea from 28 May until 1 June 2016.

The oral history project, run by Mrs Hulley with Year 9 students and local residents will be presented to the community early next term.

Mrs Rooney has made preliminary preparations for our choir to be part of a very large choral festival in Canberra.

The list goes on. Watch this space!

Mark van Ommen
Assistant Principal

Uniform Matters

We return to school in Term 2 in full winter uniform. A summary of the School’s uniform expectations is listed in this newsletter.

This week, the second hand uniform shop will be open from 3pm until 4pm on Wednesday and Thursday. If this does not suit, please call the office (64521721) for an appointment at another time.

If your child has grown and needs another uniform, consider the option of a second hand item. It is a cheaper alternative for you and supports the school.

If you have uniforms that are no longer needed, please deposit in the hot pink and blue uniform tub at the Infants covered area.

All donations are gratefully received.
P&F Mother’s Day Gift Stall 6 May

Our annual Mother’s Day Stall for the Infants and Primary students will be held on Friday 6 May in the Primary Library.

Students are asked to donate a small gift which will be sold on the stall.

We ask for gifts to be wrapped in clear cellophane so it is easier for children to see what they are buying. Could all gifts please be given to class teachers by Tuesday 3 May.

On Friday 6 May, every child in the Infants and Primary will be given the opportunity to shop at the stall for their mother/carer. Gifts will be priced between $2.00 and $5.00. All profit made goes to supporting our school.

Suggestions for gifts include- hand cream, pot plant, gardening gloves, a magazine, chocolates, bath products, coffee mug filled with sweets, ……

For enquiries or if you are able to help on the day with the stall, please contact Natalee Reid at mws@schutebell.com or on 0412910152

This year we are also having a Mother’s Day raffle. Tickets will be sent home with each family this week. They are $1 per ticket or $5 for a booklet of ten tickets. These need to be returned to the school by Wednesday 4 May (sold or unsold) in a clearly marked envelope.

Prizes are a vintage style picnic basket (complete with the champagne), a double towel package and a cheese platter...all delightful gifts.
Garden Club

The Primary School Garden Club held their second Produce Market last Friday to raise additional funds to support their new School Garden Project. Despite the rain, the market was a success with students learning about weight, money and customer service skills. Mr Simon Buckley was on hand to support the Garden Club with Mrs Moser.

Mr Buckley is currently undertaking his Master of Education through James Cook University. His current unit is focusing on a Sustainability Project and the benefits that a school garden has on student learning across the curriculum. Mr Buckley will be working with Mrs Moser and the Gardening Club to help students with their new school garden that will be built and grown on the Primary Campus.

We look forward to fertilising the soil with some more manure in the coming months. If you have some to spare, we would appreciate it.

Parents Count Too

Helping your child with – Measuring length and area

Children learn when they play. They can learn about length and area through trial and error playing with things such as blocks, ribbon, modelling clay and construction toys.

As they play, children begin to take notice of the size and shape of objects; how things fit together, how they can be stacked, the length and width of objects. Children need to be encouraged to explore and manipulate objects and talk about the things they are discovering.

How do children learn to measure length and area?

Children initially develop an understanding of measurement through comparing objects. They may hold up two blocks and say one is longer or shorter than the other. Soon after, they begin to compare more than two objects.

Children need to play and experiment with a variety of materials and objects to measure things with, before they can move to using formal units such as metres or centimetres. They need to measure the length of a table for example, using pegs, spoons or books or hand spans before using a ruler.

What can you do at home?

- Use modelling dough to roll out two “snakes” of different length. Talk about one snake being “shorter” and the other “longer”.
- Roll two snakes that are the same length from modelling dough. Turn one into a zig-zag or curved snake. Ask your child, Which snake is longer?
- Trace around your child’s hand or foot onto a piece of card and cut it out. Use this to measure the length of things such as a table or his or her bed. Before you measure, encourage your child to guess how many “hands” long the bed is.
- Roll a toy car down a ramp and measure how many car lengths it travelled.
- Walk around objects and talk about how many steps it takes.
- Record your child’s growth on a height chart.
- Compare the height of family members and talk about who is “taller” and “shorter”.
- Use a stick to measure distances between seedlings when planting.
- Measure the area of a patio or tabletop using sheets of newspaper. Count how many sheets of paper were needed to completely cover the area.
Secondary News

Term Awards Assembly

Our Term One awards assembly will be held on Friday 8 April in the church starting at 1pm. All are welcome. At this assembly a number of different awards will be given out to students including the School Merit Award. This award acknowledges all students who have achieved 4 or more merit awards in the term. These merit awards can be awarded for academic achievement, academic effort or citizenship. If a student receives a School Merit Award for each of the 4 terms in one year they will receive the Gold Bar Pin at our annual awards day.

Winter Uniform

All students will be wearing winter uniform from the beginning of Term 2. Please check that you have all the necessary items and in particular check the length of any skirts to ensure they meet standards. A reminder that the black jacket is to be worn over the sports jacket or wool jumper not instead of the jumper.

Fund raising for the Year Ten Sydney Trip

This long running excursion is on again this term and to ensure that all students in Year Ten are able to attend, the students have a list of fund raising activities that we hope the school and wider community will support. These include wood raffles, just in time for winter, and sales of sheep manure so you can get your gardens ready for those winter vegies or spring bulbs. More information will follow next term.

Holidays

We are all looking forward to the holidays. They are a great time for us all to unwind, relax and spend some ‘me or family’ time without the pressures of having to look at a clock, make lunches or worry about homework or assessment tasks. Enjoy the break and I hope to see many of you at the Anzac Day March on 25 April.

Pam Fletcher
Secondary Coordinator

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Parents Count Too

- Draw squiggle patterns or make squiggle patterns from string glued onto paper. Colour inside the “closed” areas.
- Spread out a sheet of newspaper on the floor. Count how many books will fit on top of it.
- When wrapping presents talk about the size of the paper and if the paper will be wide and long enough.
- Talk about the size of a tablecloth needed to cover a table or covering for a car.
- Look at the area coverage indicated on paint tins before painting. Talk about how many tins of paint you will need.
- Collect coloured scrap paper and some empty cans or small cartons such as cereal boxes. Your child can create a colourful model by gluing paper to completely cover the carton or can.
- Show your child examples of patchwork and talk about the patterns. Encourage them to create patterns using blocks, scraps of paper or colouring on paper.

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Reading Matters!

Thank you to all parents and friends that attended the Kaye Lowe parent session about Literacy. Kaye’s strong message was the importance of having an enjoyable shared reading time with children and the necessity of your child reading every day for at least ten minutes.

I hope you all enjoy the holidays by reading a good book or two and continuing that all important sharing time with your children.

Have a visit to the town library, trial the resource 'Reading Eggs', or have your child make lists, write cards, anything that will make using Literacy a practical part of life.


We look forward to continuing your child’s learning journey next term!

Mary-Ann Fraser
Learning and Teaching Facilitator
### Summary of winter uniform

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>K-6 Winter Girls</strong></th>
<th><strong>K-6 Winter Boys</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green gored skirt, length: below the knee</td>
<td>Plain grey long pants - approved designs; cargo pants are not permitted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green tights</td>
<td>Long sleeve fawn or white shirt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Straight cut green gabardine trousers - cord and jeans fabrics are not permitted Length; below the ankle</td>
<td>Green with gold stripe school tie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fawn or white skivvy <strong>K-2 only</strong></td>
<td>Fawn or white skivvy <strong>K-2 only</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fawn or white blouse with green with gold stripe school tie</td>
<td>Black scarves, beanies and fingerless gloves without obvious brands/logos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black scarves, beanies and fingerless gloves without obvious brands/logos</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>7-10 Winter Girls</strong></th>
<th><strong>7-10 Winter Boys</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tartan skirt with two inverted pleats with elasticised sides and back zipper, length: below the knee</td>
<td>Plain grey long pants – approved designs; cargo pants are not permitted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tartan slacks, in the same fabric as the skirt</td>
<td>Plain grey or white socks, with no other colour markings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White 'Peter Pan' pintucked long sleeved blouse, no tie is required but top button to be done up for all official school functions or plain white shirt with scalloped front</td>
<td>Long sleeve white shirt with a button-up collar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black tights</td>
<td>Green with gold stripe school tie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green school jumper with embroidered crest</td>
<td>Green school jumper with embroidered crest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black scarves, beanies and fingerless gloves without obvious brands/logos</td>
<td>Black scarves, beanies and fingerless gloves without obvious brands/logos</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Jumpers/Jackets

Students permitted to wear a green school jumper **K-10** or ‘sloppy joe’ **K-6 only** with the school crest. A plain black jacket, without prominent decorations, brand names or logos, may be worn on colder days.

### Sports/PE Uniform

Plain green microfibre shorts. Gold sports shirt with short or long sleeves, collar and school crest.

Plain white ankle length socks with turn down top or plain white sport socks with no other colour markings.

Sports shoes—no skate, canvas or casual wear shoes permitted as these do not comply with WHS.

School green tracksuit with school crest - the complete school tracksuit must be worn, ie school jumpers are not to be worn in place of the tracksuit top.

**Please note:**

- Girls’ dresses and skirts are to be below knee length.
- Ties are expected to be worn up to and covering the top button of the shirt.
- Belts should be black or dark brown.
- A plain white skivvy may be worn under the gold sports top in winter.
Year 10 Sydney Excursion

The Year 10 Sydney Excursion is fast approaching. It will be held from **Tuesday 7 June to Friday 10 June**. With such an activity, thorough planning has to occur months in advance. So that the excursion can be finalised confirmation of bookings at venues in Sydney must occur. For this to happen, all students must return their permission note with the $50 deposit to the school office. When this occurs final costing can be given to parents. Other information will be required from the school very soon. When this information is sought, it would be appreciated if it is returned as soon as possible. Some of the attractions that we will be visiting while in Sydney are........

Not to be missed!
School Communities Working Together
Fact Sheet for Parents and Carers

Introduction

The role of schools is to work in partnership with parents to provide an environment that encourages students to connect with each other and their community, so they can succeed and thrive. Parents, teachers and the community all play a role in fostering this environment.

Schools have well established systems which support student wellbeing and address instances of anti-social behaviour such as bullying, threats of physical violence and other offensive behaviours.

Your role in supporting your child

- Be involved in your child's life – dedicate time to really understand your child. Know where they are, who they are with and what they are doing.
- Be cyber-aware:
  - regularly monitor what they are looking at on the internet and on social media sites and do what you can to reduce their exposure to inappropriate content;
  - place the computer or device in a common area of the house, so your child is less likely to try and access inappropriate web sites or use social media sites inappropriately; and
  - consider using content filters to help control what your child can access.
- Encourage open and honest discussion at home – encouraging your child to learn about and understand other points of view is a valuable life skill. If you stop discussion about topics that you are uncomfortable with, for example religion, politics, racism, drugs, extremism or terrorism, your child may find it even more interesting and may try to find information without you knowing. This could lead them to inaccurate information.
- Encourage positive outlets for your child's energies – sports, performing arts, hobbies and organised clubs, all provide a sense of belonging and somewhere to focus their interests, though it may take a few attempts to find the right interest for your child.
- Be a role model – modelling positive, respectful relationships, positive ways to show emotions and how to apply objective thinking skills are valuable life skills for your child.

How you can help your child

You know your child better than anyone else and are in a good position to notice any changes in their behaviour. If their behaviour changes significantly, try to find out what is happening in their lives. There are many reasons for a change in behaviour, so don’t jump to conclusions.

The best way to support your child is to maintain open, non-judgemental communication with them. By keeping a positive relationship you may be in a position to help them if they want to talk about their problems. Listen to their concerns and try to understand their perspective.

Even if you disagree with what they are saying, it is important to find some way to let them know they are accepted and that you are there to help them.

What to do if you are concerned for your child

If you do have concerns that your child is involved in or supporting extremist behaviour there are a number of options for seeking advice. You may like to talk to someone from your child’s school such as the Principal, your child’s Year Advisor, a teacher, or a trusted staff member.

You may wish to talk to your child yourself, or ask a close friend or family member to do so. Alternatively, there are government assistance and advice lines and websites. Some are listed below.
Canteen News Week 11

A big end of term THANK YOU to all of the parents and students who have helped me out in the canteen this term. Without volunteers many things would be impossible including mini-canteen and Taco Tuesdays!! I hope next term is as successful as this one has been. Have a safe and restful break.

Secondary Athletics Carnival Thursday 7 April - Canteen Helpers Please! I will need a few helpers on the day at Snowy Oval, and in the canteen to process the normal K-6 lunch orders in the morning. Please contact me if you can spare 1-2 hours or more, thanks!! Just phone the school office or email caroline.blyton@cg.catholic.edu.au

I will also need some extra helpers for the canteen at the Primary Athletics Carnival next term on Tuesday 17 May. Please let me know if you can lend a hand, thanks.

This week’s volunteers are (thank you):

- Wednesday 6/4, 10am Rebecca Croke, 1.15pm Keira Lennon
- Thursday 7/4, Secondary Athletics Carnival. Rebecca, Chris, Kelly ... more needed! Meet at 9am at the school canteen.
- Friday 8/4, Sara Souter

Caroline Blyton
Canteen Manager
**Community News**

### Swing Dance comes to Cooma

Two workshops with guest teachers, Philippa Reville and Dean Scott from Canberra Swing Katz

Just $30 for the package of workshops.

Cooma North School Hall (Mittagong Rd)  
Saturday 2nd April 11.00am – 1.00pm  
Friday 8th April 6.00pm – 8.00pm  
$30 (includes follow-up workshops with local teacher)  
For bookings and more information -珍公n.numeral@gmail.com  0427 396564

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### SCHOOL HOLIDAY TENNIS CAMPS

Camp 1: Wednesday 13 to Thursday 14 April  
Camp 2: Wednesday 20 to Thursday 21 April  
9am – 4pm  
ROYAL TENNIS COURTS

2 Day Camp - $100.00  
Discounted to $80.00

Please call Tom: 0404838049

AFTER SCHOOL ACCREDITED

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### LEUKAEMIA FOUNDATION GREATEST SHAVE FUNDRAISING BANQUET — Norma Dietrich

This Friday 8 April at the Cooma Car Club (catering by Roses with music by the Horneman family!) Please contact Roses Restaurant on 64524512 to book. Donations can be made at Cooma Newsagency, Rhythm Sports, Alpine Hotel, Woolworths Cooma or online at [http://my.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/normadietrich](http://my.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/normadietrich). Thank you in anticipation of your support.

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### COOMA LITTLE THEATRE APRIL PRODUCTION AND 60TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

“Return to the Forbidden Planet” by Bob Carlton  
To secure your tickets go to [www.clt.org.au](http://www.clt.org.au) or see Cooma Visitors Centre. Get in now in order to ensure you and your group gets the seats you want. On the weekend of April 16 and 17 the theatre will remain open between the matinee and the evening show for members and ex-members to enjoy some nibbles and a drink or a coffee, catch up with old friends and have a laugh looking over the old photo albums. The next morning, an egg and bacon roll brunch will also be on offer. Please let us know if you intend to attend.

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### SATURDAY MORNING SOCCER COMPETITION

Registrations now open for the Saturday morning soccer competition for players U6s-U11s. Register online at [www.myfootballclub.com.au](http://www.myfootballclub.com.au). Contact details for Cooma Football Club can be found at coomafootballnet. Grassroots Coaching Course this Saturday 9 April 9am-12pm at Nijong. Visit [http://education-ffa.sportingpulse.com/Entry/?EID=14137](http://education-ffa.sportingpulse.com/Entry/?EID=14137) to register.

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### SCHOOL HOLIDAY TENNIS CAMPS

**Camp 1**: Wednesday 13 to Thursday 14 April  
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9am – 4pm  
ROYAL TENNIS COURTS

2 Day Camp - $100.00  
Discounted to $80.00

Please call Tom: 0404838049

AFTER SCHOOL ACCREDITED

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### Inspire, Write & Educate  
April School Holiday Activities - week 1

Limited places available for each activity, bookings essential. (Bookings are not secured until payment is made)

**Monday**  
11 Snowy Hydro with included picnic  
18 Trip to Jindabyne w/ possible Sport and Recreation if we have 10  
25 Anzac Day

**Tuesday**  
12 National Museum of Australia  
19 Movie & Popcorn  
26 Parliament House ACT

**Wednesday**  
13 Corrective Museum and Reglan Art  
20 Dinosaur Museum Canberra  
26 ACT

**Thursday**  
14 National Zoo and Aquarium  
21 Cockington Green  
26ACT

**Friday**  
15 Royal Australian Mint Coin Museum  
22 Questacon  
26ACT

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BOOK NOW at cooma@activeachievers.com, or (02) 6252 59 55  
WE ARE FILLING UP FAST!

Book 1 week and receive 5% discount OR Book 2 weeks (whole program) receive further 5% discount 10%

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For more information & bookings:  
Phone: (02) 6252 59 55  
Email: inspirewriteandeducate@gmail.com  
Drop in to: 88 Vale St, Cooma
SCHOOL HOLIDAYS (& A BIT MORE)
AT COOMA LIBRARY!

⇒ Saturday April 2nd at 11am Meet two of Australia’s most popular authors
    Rural Romance writer Fleur McDonald &
    Foodie-Fiction Author Josephine Moon

⇒ April 4th-8th Senior’s Week events every day.
    Contact us for a full program

⇒ School Holiday Craft Wednesday April 13th at 10.30am AND
    Thursday 21st at 2pm. Free

⇒ Friday April 15th at 11am Gran’s Bag.
    Children’s Theatre Show (4 - 7 yo). Free

⇒ Monday April 18th free kids movies
    11am Blinky Bill (G)
    2pm Hotel Transylvania 2 (PG)

⇒ Wednesday April 20th at 10.30am Preschool Storytime
    Celebrates Mother’s Day. Hear stories & make craft

⇒ Wednesday April 27th The State Library NSW Going Places Tour
    presents Australian author Mark Henshaw

EVENTS ARE FREE. TO RSVP OR FOR MORE INFORMATION
6455 1730 OR EMAIL library@monaro.nsw.gov.au