Dear St Patrick’s Community,

As the journey of Advent continues, we prepare to celebrate the nativity of Christ.

This week, we light the second Advent candle. This week, we invite peace to prevail in our heart and our home. It is a pressing invitation to open our hearts and to welcome the Son of God.

Recently, I attended the farewell to the Director of Catholic Education, Mrs Moira Najdecki. It was a lovely celebration of ten years’ work in this role. Moira held our school in high regard and it was fitting that the very last building she officially opened was at St Patrick’s. We wish her well in her retirement. The new Director, Ross Fox, will take up his role very shortly.

Last week, we were privileged to hear the speeches from the Year 9 nominees for the 2017 Student Leadership Team. I am very confident of a very good team. The selection of the School Captains is based on the staff and student votes (of equal value) and an interview process. The Year 5 students are preparing for their nomination for the Primary Student Leadership Team. Whilst the names are announced this year, the formal induction process is early in 2017.

Each year, I continue to be impressed with the calibre of the students who pass through St Patrick’s. This was particularly so as I attended the Year 12 Graduation Mass and Awards at St Mary MacKillop College in Tuggeranong last Friday. My heart swelled with pride watching my first Year 10 group now exiting Year 12, with exciting plans and dreams ahead of them. May it always be so!

Yours in peace,
Frances Robertson
Principal

May peace shine so brightly in us that it inspires others.

SPECIAL DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday 7 December
K-6 Thank You morning tea 11.10am

Thursday 8 December
K-6 Swimming Program
Senior Citizens’ Luncheon
Yr 9 Community Service Day

Friday 9 December
K-6 Awards Day 12.30
Secondary Term awards 2.15pm

Monday 12 December
K-Yr 10 COLOUR Day

Tuesday 13 December
Yr 6 End of Year Liturgy 2pm
Yr 6 BBQ 5pm

Wednesday 14 December
K-2 Christmas Concert 12pm
Yr 10 Graduation Dinner 7pm
What a joy it was to see the former St Patrick's students at their MacKillop Year 12 Graduation Mass on Friday. They have all blossomed!

Each year, one of our former students has become a member of the student leadership team.

This year, of the 20 highest Year 12 academic achievers, one third came from Cooma. Given that our students only make up less than 10% of their senior student population, this is an amazing achievement.

In particular, we are very proud of the prestigious award given to ANGELA SULLIVAN. She was awarded the highest award at the culmination of the Mass: the Principal's Award, for her outstanding achievement and commitment in all areas.

We grow them good in Cooma!

Primary Leadership

How delightful it was to listen to the Year 5 students seeking a Primary Leadership position. Their speeches were well prepared and honest, full of gentle humour and reflected the values of this school. It was music to our ears!
From the AP’s Desk

Semester reports
Over the last 2 weeks, staff have been compiling Semester reports. I would encourage all students, and parents, to take the time to read their Semester report when they receive it on Friday 16 December. Teachers spend a lot of time carefully considering the achievements of each student and areas they could work on in the coming year. I always tell students that the comment is often more important than the grade. Employers in particular look at the comments, to see if a student is punctual, hardworking and will represent their business in a positive way. They gauge this from the comments that teachers write.

School information
A reminder that in the next week there are several events. Information on the event and times can be seen by doing a google search for ‘St Patrick’s Cooma calendar’. This gives the most up to date information on school events.

Pictures of school activities can be found on our Facebook page. You don’t have to be a Facebook subscriber to look at our Facebook page. Just do a search ‘St Patrick’s Cooma Facebook’. If it asks you to login, just skip and continue to the page.

Mark van Ommen
Assistant Principal

Secondary Leadership
Thank you to the Year 9 students who took up the challenge of nominating for a student leadership position for 2017. Their speeches were well prepared and indicated the strength of their integrity. Individual interviews with the Principal and Secondary Coordinator were held last Friday, as part of the overall process in selecting the Student Leadership Team for 2017.
THIS MONDAY IS COLOUR DAY
SHOW YOUR TRUE COLOURS TO SUPPORT Relay for Life

Join in the fun!

Colourful clothing = $1
Hairspray = $1
Nail polish = $1
Wet sponge activities = $1
Guessing competition = $1

As a continuing commemoration for our former Visual Arts teacher, Ms Sabina Kovats, we are again celebrating

COLOUR DAY!

St Patrick’s COLOUR DAY
Cooma Race Day - Thank you

On a lovely summer day with a slight breeze, we had a successful day catering for the Cooma Races, Sundowner Cup for 2016. St Patrick’s has run this event for the Cooma Race Club for approximately the last twenty years. It’s been generations of our parental families, local community families, community service clubs, food retailers, staff and secondary students who have made this day a great success. This year, we were fortunate to have two members of our local parish and Rotarians who came along and joined in on the festivities of the day.

It’s times like these that bring us together as a school and local community whilst we enjoyed one of Cooma’s Social Highlights of the Year.

We would like to thank the current and alumni families, students, teachers and local parishioners who helped out on the day, together with those school families and parishioners who provided monetary donations and donations of baked treats and freshly made sandwiches.

A big thank you goes to Cooma Race Club Committee and President Mick Schofield, Correctional Services, current and alumni families, teachers and students who cleaned on the Thursday evening, transported goods to and from the race course on the Friday morning and set-up in readiness for the exciting day we encountered last Saturday.

An estimated figure will be provided shortly. The money raised will be used for upcoming work planned within our Secondary Campus on the landscaping of the garden and recreational spaces which will occur over a period of time.

Thank you to all those who have contributed and were involved in making this major fundraising event a great success.

St Patrick’s Parish School, Community Council, Race Day Committee 2016

Canteen News

Winding Down!

The term has certainly gone very quickly and I am sure everyone is looking forward to the break.

Please note that the canteen will only be open on Tuesday and Wednesday next week so please be sure that your children have a packed lunch on Thursday and Friday.

As it is the end of term and the end of the year, the Canteen will start to run out of items as we get ready for the Christmas shut down. I will endeavour to get your children what they order but in the event that it is not available, I will substitute with something else. I appreciate your understanding in this.

There will be no Mini Canteen next week. However, this week’s Mini Canteen will go ahead as usual. Next Monday we are having a “Red Day” in the Canteen to coincide with Colour Day in remembrance of Mrs Kovats. This is a one off day where treat foods will be available from the canteen. There will be no lunch orders as students will be given an opportunity to visit the canteen to purchase for themselves so please don’t forget to send some money with your children so that they may participate in this one off day.

This weeks Helpers are:

Thursday 8/12 Brett Dawson
Friday 9/12 Nicole Withers
Rebecca Croke
Canteen Manager
History Learning in Year 3 and 4

Year 3 and 4 had a hands on learning experience at the Snowy Hydro Discovery Centre last week as part of their work on local history. This is the culmination of their excursions around Cooma.

YEAR 10 RESULTS AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS

Year 10 (Stage 5) grades will be released to schools and students on Wednesday 7 December. The eRecord is an interim report of accumulating results for each student, including:

- Stage 5 (Year 10) grades
- Life Skills outcomes, where applicable.

Students can log into their Students Online secure account to view their results and download their own eRecord. They will need to activate their account to gain access, if they have not done so already.

BOSTES will send students an e-bulletin when their grades are available, including details of how to access their account.
Year 10 have successfully completed their cadetship with the Rural Fire Service.

Thank you to Regina and Vern for volunteering considerable time to support this program.
Community Service

Thank you to the students who recently supported the MCCR fund-raiser garden party, especially Elle McGufficke, Ivy McGufficke, Erin Dodd, Andrew Pearce, Sara Knott, Emily Pearce, Megan Schofield, Maria Tarasuyk and Jasmin Statham-Smith.

Thank you to the students who performed for the VIEW Club Christmas luncheon.

Thank you to all of the Year 9 students undertaking their day of service this week.

Thank you to the students who helped last Friday to clean the cooking area and set for the catering for the Cooma races.

Thank you to the students who served as part of the catering team at the Cooma races last Saturday.

Thank you to the students who joined in Celebrate Ability with Drumbeat in the park.

Free Kids Events at Snowy Monaro

Regional Library this January:

FREE CRAFT ROOM from Monday 16 to Friday 27 January 2017 10am-3pm. Make a villain or hero and add your creation to our Crazy Craft Wall

Free Kids Movies at The Library (RSVP essential):

Monday 9 January 10.30am at Cooma Library - Finding Dory (G) & 2pm - The BFG (PG)

Monday 16 January 10.30am at Cooma Library - Polar Adventure (G) & 2pm - Storks (G)

Monday 23 January 10.30am at Cooma Library - Secret Life Of Pets (G) & 2pm - Pete’s Dragon (PG)

FREE FROM ANYWHERE WITH YOUR LIBRARY CARD:

- Discover free digital magazines on Zinio (download the free app on your device).
- Download free ebooks or eaudiobooks with (download the free app on your device).
- Pick up free fun crosswords, puzzles and colouring pages from any Library Branch or The Snowy Mts Neighbourhood Centre.
- Check out our amazing graphic novels for loan.
- Use free WIFI at any Library Branch Travelling? Check out a talking book!
- Register online with The Summer Reading Club for a chance to win great prizes!
Science

Year 8 are currently studying ecological issues affecting our environment by making short films about issues affecting their lives. They have constructed foodwebs and discussed how the organisms in these webs have been impacted by human habitation.

This week some students have been collaborating to develop short films on ecological issues affecting the environment.
Here is some food for thought on ways to support a child when they don’t quite achieve what they thought they were going to achieve.

At St Patrick’s, we prefer not to use the word failing, as it suggests a blunder or a flop or that something has come to nothing. This should never be the case.

Every attempt at something new is a learning experience and an opportunity to build resilience.

Every attempt is one step closer to getting it right. None of us could ride a bike if we gave up easily!

Teaching our children not to give up and to seek alternative ways to achieve goals is one of life’s most important lessons. We want our children to face challenges, be dedicated, to persevere and to thrive.
Congratulations to the Year 9/10 Food Technology class who created the beautiful gingerbread houses as part of their practical course. There were some challenges along the way with collapsing houses, but the end products are magical!

Youth for Global Peace Inc. presents a free “Peace Leadership Workshop” on 2-4 December 2016 at the Cooma Multicultural Centre in 12 Mittagang Rd in Cooma North. This workshop is for all ages and is a very practical and interactive course that introduces community members to strategies for conflict resolution and community building and increases skills in communication, co-operation and affirmation of self and others.
This is a copy of the page in the book that was presented to Mrs Moira Najdecki from all the schools in the Archdiocese.

St Patrick’s Parish School, Cooma

From the school with altitude, St Patrick’s in Cooma, we want to wish you well in your retirement.

It is obvious that you have treated your work as a joy and a privilege.

You have gifted our school, our staff and our students with a listening ear.

You have been generous in seeing the perspective of a country central school.

And you have supported and encouraged us to continue to strive...with good grace.

Adieu. Farewell. May God hold you in the palm of His hand, now and always.

Come, Lord Jesus

Advent 2016
"Drumbeat to Celebrate Ability"

A group of enthusiastic Year 6 students supported “Celebrate Ability” last Friday with a Drumbeat Session in Cooma Centennial Park.

The students invited members of the public to join them in a drumbeat circle.

Drumbeat is a community building process and the students are to be congratulated on remembering the skills they developed in Year 5.

The students’ presence was appreciated at this event which is an international celebration and an inspirational reminder of learning growth and courage of the human spirit.

The Parish of St Patrick’s is busily preparing for the Advent season leading up to Christmas. **There will be a special Children’s Liturgy each Sunday during December at the 10 am Mass.**

What a lovely way to prepare for Christmas!
Student Artscapes 2016

Opening Friday 2nd December 2016 from 5pm to 6pm

RAGLAN GALLERY – Imants Tillers Wing, 9 – 11 Lambie Street, COOMA NSW 2630
Exhibition ends 30th January 2017 – Gallery hours – Wednesday to Sunday 9.30am – 4.30pm
Telephone: 02 6452 3377  (exhibition includes 2016 HSC art works)