Dear Parents and Friends of our School Community

Let your light so shine before men

We had a beautiful Scripture reading this Sunday, encouraging us to be the light in the world (and the salt of the earth). Much of our world lives in the darkness of despair. As Christians, we have the light of hope... and we must share it with others. Our job at St Patrick's is to illuminate every child in Jesus’ love.

As I write this, I can hear Coco Jones’ voice in my head singing:

This little light of mine
I’m gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

There certainly were lit up faces last week as the students returned to school.

New Kindergarten children bring such joy to a new school year. We have also welcomed quite a number of new enrollees in all year groups, with more on the way. The Year 7 students were delightful in their enthusiasm for the first week of High School.

The photos in this newsletter speak strongly of the love and light in our school.

Kind regards

Mrs Frances Robertson
Principal

Coming events

Thursday 9 February
Primary Cricket Trials, Gundagai
Open Community Council Meeting 5.30pm
Yr 2 Parent meeting 6.30pm
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

Thursday 16 February
Primary Southern Region Swimming Narooma
Parish Pastoral Council meeting 6.30pm
From the AP’s Desk...

The focus of this year's Canberra's Raiders' visit is NRL Respect which aims to provide an interactive learning experience that empowers young people on the values that make a successful team, group, or community.

The assembly visit for Years 3-6 focused on two main values that promote a respectful and successful team:

1. BELONGING

Developing a sense of belonging and connectedness to your community is a key aspect of how you participate in your community or team. Our young people come from diverse cultures, abilities, social backgrounds, gender and religions. We are rich with diversity and it's everyone's right to feel included and welcome in their community.

2. CELEBRATING DIFFERENCES

Respecting and valuing diversity is important in Rugby League. If we look at our NRL teams, no player is the same. When the players have respect for their teammates, they are able to bring together their different abilities and experiences in a team to achieve common goals. We will use this message to encourage young people to respect others and appreciate the opportunities they have to work together in their school community.

Attendance at School

All schools are provided with guidelines for the management of student attendance. This is overseen by the Catholic Schools Office which is responsible to the Government. Rolls must be kept in the school for seven years, after the last entry was made.

Parents are responsible for:

- ensuring that their children attend school regularly
- ensuring their children arrive at school at St Patrick's by 8:55am
- explaining to the school any absence of their children promptly and within seven school days, and
- taking measures to resolve attendance issues.

Reasons for absences need to be justifiable (and have the Principal acceptance). Examples of unjustified reasons could be: constantly late, ongoing car or traffic problems, birthdays etc.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when absences explained as being due to sickness are frequent or prolonged.

If a child is away on school business, this is not considered an absence and does not require a note of explanation.

I strongly encourage parents to communicate with the school when there are difficulties. Let's get the children into classes on time and ready for learning!

Steven Joyce
Assistant Principal
The light of St Patrick’s
We need to be aware of all of our students all day, every day.

If students are absent from school for any reason, or arrive late, a signed note or parent email is required explaining the late arrival or absence. This must come within 7 days or the child’s roll is marked as an unexplained absence.

Late arrivals need to be ‘signed in’ through the Office, either by presenting to the Office (Secondary students are given a Late Note), or for Primary, parents texting the Office, using the given number on the doors of buildings.

The light of St Patrick’s
Student Leadership Team in Primary

Lilly Janota, Jack Buckley, Harvey McLean and India Dyball

House leaders in Primary

Aqua-
Jack Kleven, Matilda Joyce, Charlize Gammon and Talon Kelly

Terra-
Mitchell Burke, Safia Nassar, Erin Alexander and Tony Bitar

Ignis-
Lilli Jauncey, Toby Inskip, Harry Knowles and Abby Douch,

Caelum-
Eric Henderson, Clara Thornton, Olave Wilkinson and Ryan Pielle

This Year’s Theme

The theme of our faith journey in our school this year will be Love Your Neighbour. This develops further the work done last year as part of the Year of Faith and is the theme that has been adopted by Caritas Australia for their Lenten campaign. In essence we are asking our community to take up the call in the gospel of Matthew, Chapter 22, ‘You shall love Your neighbour as yourself.’

We have an excellent resource that our teachers use in their classrooms as part of teaching Religion called Understanding Faith. This is a multimedia website that supports all aspects of the RE Curriculum. This can be viewed at home, allowing you to support your child’s faith development journey and allowing you to become more familiar with some of the concepts that your child may be talking about at home. The URL to the Understanding Faith site is https://understandingfaith.edu.au/

This site has a school login which you can use at home. The username is ceo.cg.cooma and the password is 29tookPAIR. The login is the same for the Primary and Secondary login.

Again if you have any questions relating to your child’s faith journey at the school please email rec.stpatscooma@cg.catholic.edu.au
Canteen News

Week 2 and I hope everyone is starting to settle back into some sort of normalcy.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help out in the canteen this term. Your involvement is so greatly appreciated.

If there is anyone who would like to volunteer, we are always in need of a friendly face and it only takes about an hour of your morning.

Mini Canteen returns THIS WEDNESDAY!! This week we will be offering banana pancakes, popcorn, ice blocks and milk with sippah straws, just to name a few things.

Prices range from 50c to $2. This is a great way for your child to build on their money handling skills so please don't forget to send them with a little spare change.

In this hot weather it is so important to stay hydrated. The Canteen offers cold bottles of water for $1. It is a great way to keep kids feeling fresh and hydrated.

This week's volunteers are:

Wednesday 8/02: Julie Sutton
Mini Canteen: Keira and Howard

Thursday 9/02: Chris Haylock

Friday 10/02: Volunteer Required

Rebecca Croke
Canteen Manager

Community Council News

On Thursday evening this week, we are having an OPEN Community Council gathering.

This is an opportunity for all to come and share ideas, make suggestions and enjoy the company of other parents.

It is only for one hour starting at 5.30pm in the Parish Centre.

Contact Lucinda (Chairperson) if you have any questions by email; margeo@yahoo.com)
Primary Campus News... using calculators from early years

I would like to explain why we request the purchase of calculators in stationery lists from Year 3. I can understand some concern that the students are still learning the basics, but the use of calculators in the classroom does not preclude the use of the brain.

Calculators have been integrated within the daily mathematics experiences of children from Kindergarten. This is because the calculator can serve this purpose across all strands of the Mathematics curriculum, not just for times tables or fact recall. It is viewed as a means to an end, not an end in itself. Research shows that calculators can also produce maximum output with minimum input — young children can significantly improve their numeral recognition skills simply through depressing the digit keys.

The NSW Mathematics syllabus requires the use of technological learning aids and the calculator is both attractive and motivating to children in all primary grades. It is inexpensive compared with most other learning materials and requires very few skills to be operated. Furthermore, the calculator does not lose impact as children progress to higher grade levels, nor does it require ‘phasing out’ in readiness for a more advanced learning aid.

The calculator is also very versatile. Unlike most other learning aids, it can accommodate a broad range of topics in the Mathematics curriculum across all grade levels. Calculator use does not contribute to a deterioration of basic facts and skills, rather it can effectively promote the thinking process involved in the learning of concepts and skills. As such, the calculator is an integral component of the primary school Mathematics program. The online NAPLAN test we participated in last year supported this idea with the use of a calculator to assist with problems presented in the task.

Having said this, please be assured that calculators, like any learning aid or tool are used occasionally and when appropriate. In short, calculators are a complementary learning tool, that are versatile, allow for individual exploration and enrichment and are suitable for all learning levels.
I am happy to discuss this further with any parents, if they wish.

Stephanie Lovat
K-6 Coordinator
“A human child of the age of about three-and-a-half. That is the most remarkable organism on Earth. The speed at which it develops, the skills it develops, the way it can manipulate you - that is the most marvellous animal in the world.”

- SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH
A free six session parenting program for parents of adolescents aged 12-18.

Would you like to learn how to:
- Be better at talking with your teen?
- Be better at understanding your teen?
- Help your teen learn to manage their emotions?
- Help to prevent behavioral problems in your teen?
- Teach your teen to deal with conflict?

Tuning into Teens shows you how to help your teen develop emotional Intelligence. Adolescents with higher emotional intelligence:
- Are more aware, assertive and strong in situations of peer pressure
- Have greater success with making friends and are more able to manage conflict with peers.
- Are able to cope when upset or angry.
- Have more stable and satisfying relationships with adults.
- Have greater career success - Emotional Intelligence may be a better predictor of academic and career success than IQ.

Where: Cooma Public School, Commissioner Street, Cooma – Old School House: Conference Room.

When: Every Thursday from 11am - 1:30 pm starting 2 March, 2017 finishing 6th April, 2017. Light refreshments provided.

Contact: Registration and further information:
- PJ Ward (Cooma) 0408295869, pjward@barnardos.org.au
- Debra Vido (Queanbeyan) Southern NSW Children’s family Centre 0421618338, dvido@barnardos.org.au

We believe in our children and young people.
After School Lab is Coming to Cooma

We are delighted to announce that a new after-school club called the 'Lab' is soon starting on a Thursday afternoon in Cooma! (Exact date to be advised.) We have some more spaces available and welcome your expressions of interest, Lab registrations and any questions you may have! Just contact Monika Ryan on 0404 798 368 or monikaryanbega@gmail.com. You can also contact Fiona McDonald on 0435 665 945.

This after-school club is suitable for children with Autism or Asperger’s and/or suffering from anxiety. The Lab will allow young people to explore their own technology interests in a safe and neutral environment, supported by mentors. Its intent is not only to provide tuition in areas such as programming, 3D, digital design and game development, but also to help kids navigate social norms and build meaningful relationships. It provides individuals with opportunities to explore specific interests, experience less pressure to conform to accepted norms, to express themselves and to share their skills and interests. Kids will be able to connect with like-minded others and do what they enjoy doing, rather than follow a strict school routine. This club is using computer technology as a vehicle for personal and social growth, with the intention to build capacity for independent, successful and happy lives. (Further information: http://thelab.org.au/)

The club format suits children and teenagers with Autism, Asperger’s or similar ‘conditions’, but membership is open to any interested child or teen who needs help socialising or who would like to take their technology skills to a new level.

The Cooma Lab will be guided by a national not-for-profit company, The Lab Network, and promotes the values of individuality, equity and social inclusion.

Monika Ryan
The Dollarmites are bringing
the future to your school.

Since 1931, CommBank's School Banking program has been offering engaging ways for Australian children to learn the value of saving and develop lifelong money skills.

For our 2017 theme, a futuristic adventure is in store. Students will join the new-look Dollarmites as Future Savers, making their way towards the Savings Hover Park — a fantastic playground up in the clouds of a hi-tech metropolis.

Encouraging savings habits with great rewards
School Banking will continue to reward children who demonstrate regular savings behaviour, and this year we're introducing an exciting new range of reward items. Two are released every term, and available in Term 1 are the Cyber Handball and Colour Change Markers. Your child can redeem one of these reward items, while stocks last, after making 10 School Banking deposits.

Visit commbank.com.au/schoolbanking to download and print this year's Rewards Card. On our website you'll also find a fun activity sheet and a Savings Tracker your child can use to keep track of their School Banking deposits throughout the year.

Dedicated savers get a chance to win a trip to Tokyo Disneyland
The Future Savers Grand Prize competition will take one lucky student on a family trip to Tokyo, Japan. Up to two adults and three children will get tickets to explore Tokyo Disneyland and Tokyo DisneySea, including the futuristic Tomorrowland attractions. This prize includes:

- Return economy airfares from the winner's nearest capital city to Tokyo, Japan
- Five nights' accommodation at the Sheraton Grande Tokyo Bay Hotel
- Three-day Magic Pass to Tokyo Disneyland and Tokyo DisneySea
- AU$1,000 spending money

To enter, your child simply has to make 15 or more School Banking deposits before the end of Term 3, 2017. This will automatically enter them into the competition for a chance to win.

For more information, visit commbank.com.au/schoolbanking
In Year 9 and interested? Talk to Miss Trigg for more information, or to discuss funding options.
A breakthrough – play piano immediately

Simply Music is a revolutionary Australian-developed piano and keyboard method that offers a breakthrough in music education. This unique approach has students of all ages, playing great-sounding contemporary, gospel, classical, blues and accompaniment pieces – immediately – from their very first lessons!

Simply Music focuses on the sheer pleasure of playing. The ‘hands-on’ approach, and immediate results, actively dispel the notion that learning to play means enduring years of lessons, boring practice sessions and relentless hours of drills.

How is Simply Music different?

- The quantity of music you learn
- The quality of music you immediately learn to play
- The speed of your progress
- The ease with which you experience the process

The Simply Music Method is based on the premise that everyone, without exception, is naturally musical. Traditional methods insist that beginners learn to read music as the means of learning to play. This removes the natural connection between student and instrument and commonly, it removes all the fun, too.

In fact, expecting children to read music before they’ve learned to play is like expecting children to read and spell before they’ve learned to talk.

In stark contrast, Simply Music temporarily delays reading and introduces a revolutionary, ‘playing-based’ approach – an body of unique concepts that unfold directly onto the keyboard, producing unprecedented results. With Simply Music, you experience the pleasure and satisfaction that comes from immediately playing a huge repertoire of great-sounding music.

“[My boys are 8 and 10]. They’ve had just 12 lessons with Simply Music and already know 12 songs. Not just ‘Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star’ and ‘Mary Had A Little Lamb’, but real music. The boys are already playing the blues. They think they’re hot stuff.”

Rebecca Neis

“This is a wonderful music program and the results are astounding! Even if you don’t consider yourself musically inclined, this program is for you. I also think it could be a major breakthrough for children with a variety of cognitive delays and learning difficulties. I love Simply Music’s approach.”

Dr. Anne Margaret Wright (Psy.D.) Educational Consultant

“I have a Bachelor of Music degree from CSULB. Having now seen Simply Music, I wish I would have had your program many years ago. I so strongly believe in your approach that I will promote it every chance I get.”

Kathy Troxel

To find out more call:

Christine Morris
Licensed Simply Music Teacher

play piano!
Chris Morris Piano School

Christine Morris
Certified Simply Music Teacher
M: 0431 325 283
E: playpiano@bigpond.com
W: www.simplymusic.com
In 2017, come celebrate a friend of humanity: TADEUSZ KOSCIUSZKO

2017 has been proclaimed by the Polish Parliament as the Year of Tadeusz Kosciuszko to commemorate the bicentenary of his death. The celebrations are officially being held in association with UNESCO.

Exciting events are planned to mark this important anniversary. Kosciuszko was a valiant international freedom fighter and champion of human rights. His ideals were noble and his legacy profound.

Come celebrate a true friend of humanity! The planned events include:
- film marathons about Kosciuszko around Australia;
- the official Australian premiere of the American film Kosciuszko: A Man Before His Time, directed by Alex Storozynski;
- a Kosciuszko Festival in Jindabyne (October 28 – 29), featuring Aboriginal-Polish Fraternity Flights, an art exhibition, concerts starring Aboriginal artists and folkloric ensembles, and a Kosciuszko film marathon;
- the launch of the Russian version of the award-winning documentary Kosciuszko: Poland Will Yet Dance;
- the filming of the “Mound to Mountain Skiing Expedition”; and
- an international competition (please see reverse for further details).

To find out more about the bicentenary, go to www.kosciuszkoheritage.com/200