Dear St Patrick’s Community

Last Sunday, June 5, was World Environment Day. Let us commit ourselves through reflection and action to a stewardship of our environment that heals our own lives, our communities and our world.

From the Papal document *Laudato Si*, it is pointed out that “Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life, and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us.”

The final word comes from Dr Seuss, "Unless someone like YOU cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

Last week, I ‘signed off’ on the new Technology and Visual Arts building in Secondary. I walked outside and saw the most beautiful rainbow finishing at the top of the building. It seems that we do indeed have a ‘pot of gold’ there.

We have begun the moving process into this new building and what a delight it is to see the students’ faces as they enter it. Although there is still an incredible amount to unpack and find the right places for, classes have commenced there.

I have included a letter from the Director of Schools, Mrs Moira Najdecki, that was sent to Principals on Friday. She has informed the ArchBishop of her resignation in January 2017. Mrs Najdecki has been closely connected to this school for quite some time and also came to know the community quite well when her daughter was a teacher here. She has been a great supporter of the projects that have been undertaken and was recently here to see the latest building. The gift of her leadership will be missed.

Kind regards

*Frances Robertson*

Principal

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“The Lord took Adam and settled him in the Garden of Eden to cultivate and take care of it.” Genesis 2:15

**Special Dates**

**Thursday 9 June**
Yr 10 Sydney Trip
First Community Council meeting 6.30pm

**Friday 10 June**
Yr 10 Sydney Trip
6J Assembly 12.30pm

**Thursday 16 June**
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
3J Assembly 12.30pm

**Friday 17 June**
CPS/CCC Cross Country

**Monday 20 June**
Stage 2 Public Speaking
Southern Region final at Moruya
Stage 3 Southern Region Public Speaking
From the AP’s Desk

Snowsports

The expression of interest letters has revealed that less students across Years 3-6 and 7-10 have chosen to do Snowsports this year. After discussion between Mr Lawley, Mr Introna and myself it has been decided to combine 3-6 and 7-10 Snowsports for 2016.

The new dates for Snowsports will be Monday and Tuesday 15 and 16 August and Monday and Tuesday 22 and 23 August. Although Thursday and Friday are more desirable, the dates chosen avoided clashes with other events like Alpine Interschools, the Father’s day stall and Archdiocesan athletics.

All students in Years 3-10 will travel up on two buses and be based at Smiggins. This will actually give students Years 3-10 more time on the snow. It is anticipated that the majority of Secondary students will travel to other parts of Perisher resort for their lessons.

The final letter outlining departure times and final costs will be sent through in the next few weeks.

Winter

I would like to remind students and parents of our uniform policy during winter. We understand that on particularly cold, windy and snowy days students need extra protection from the elements. This can include a plain black beanie, plain black scarf, plain black gloves and plain black jacket that should only be worn over normal winter uniform.

If there is a reason why your child cannot wear the correct uniform, please contact or send a note in to their class/Homeroom teacher. We also have a second hand uniform shop which families can access. Please contact Melinda Barrett.

Mark van Ommen
Assistant Principal

Trees are the earth's endless effort to speak to the listening heaven.

—Rabindranath Tagore, Fireflies, 1928.
HELP! HELP! HELP! HELP!

Hello. We are looking for parents and friends who are willing to take some books home to cover. We have been given a large number of new books to put into K-6 class libraries, through the Catholic Education 'Early Learning Initiative'.

If you have some time to spare and can cover some books for us, please send an email to Mary-Ann Fraser on maryann.fraser@cg.catholic.edu.au. All contact will be provided.

Let's get books into all students' hands to help them love reading and learning!

Look who is coming to school in 2017.

Interviews are currently taking place with the 2017 students for Kindergarten and Year 7. If you wish to make enquiries, please call the Office on 64521721.
Shearing School

Australian Wool Innovations (AWI) run shearing schools around Australia teaching people the skills necessary for them to enter the industry as either a shearer or a wool handler. Mick Schofield runs the local school in conjunction with Coolringdon. Instruction was provided by expert shearsers. Year 9 student Clayton Miners participated in one of these week long schools recently. He kept shed hours starting at 7.30 and finishing at 5pm each day with breaks for smoko and lunch. He learnt how to sharpen combs and cutters, load a handpiece, how to crutch and shear a sheep correctly. Clayton was shown the differences between good and bad wool and practised throwing fleeces onto the wool rolling table. He also learnt how to keep safe in the shed and how stretching was important before starting each run. By the end of the week he was shearing full sheep. He would recommend the school to anyone else interested in entering the wool industry. Clayton thanks St Patrick’s for letting him attend.

Clayton Miners and Mrs Fletcher

Year 10 Retreat Day

On Monday Year 10 students participated in a spirituality day. The focus of the day was reflection on deepening knowledge and understanding of Jesus in Scripture and the support of faith, prayer and companionship of Jesus on life’s journey.

The metaphors of sea and sailing were used to communicate and express this aspect of faith.

In Sydney this week, Year 10 will be experiencing many moments by the sea, so their prayer day will enrich their excursion. Students participated in group activities, creative expression, prayer, meditation and movement. Their participation and input was very positive as was reflected in their artwork and enthusiasm throughout the day.

Paul Mackay, Lou Mackay,
Year 10 Religious Education Teachers
Secondary Basketball

Recently four teams of Secondary students travelled to Canberra to play in the Archdiocesan Basketball Competition. This was the first time that St Patrick’s had participated in this competition and, while we didn't win a lot of games, it was certainly a worthwhile experience and one we would hope to do again.

There are some student comments below.

‘The day was a good time for everyone. It made us work as a team and have good team spirit.’  Sean

‘It was a great opportunity to meet new people. We had fun.’  Zoe

‘It was a great day and we all had fun playing. We even scored some points in the end.’  Caitlin

‘It was a good day and we played to the best of our ability. We had a couple of close games.’  Dom

‘There was lots of good sportsmanship, we tried our hardest, and it was good to watch some of the other teams.’  Rhys

‘It was good to go with the other teams. I would do it again.’  Emily

‘The basketball competition was a fun day. It didn't matter whether we won or lost since we worked great as a team.’  Matthew

All students played to the best of their ability, exhibited great sportsman like skills and were a pleasure to take away. A special thank you to Betty Longhurst and Rachel Schouten for training the students beforehand.

Pam Fletcher and Tim Lawley, Coordinating Teachers
Art can take many forms. This installation art took place in the Church yard last week as a creative way of doing the sculpture assessment component of the task for the Elective Art class.

Installation art is a site-specific three-dimensional artwork that is designed to help the viewer to see things differently. It is often temporary art.

The students were challenged to use ‘found objects’ and any additional items they wanted to make ahead of time or bring from home.

TEN PRIVACY TIPS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

As part of Privacy Awareness Week (15-21 May 2016), the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) launched a resource for parents and carers that contains tips on how to protect personal information and educate children about privacy, especially in an online environment.

There is a PDF attachment to Newsletter email of information booklet and if you require a hard copy students can pick one up from the School Office.

The information Commissioner has released a video on the importance of parental involvement in this matter. It can be found if you type in https://youtu.be/d8_6F6KhjvE
The Peasant Prince

The Peasant Prince was a magical performance and full of meaning. The students were very, very excited before the show even started!

The maker of the costumes was Michal Hanken and they were amazing! The choreography was wonderful and took a month to practice. They presented the story in a way where they could get into character and be really emotional...which made for a great production!

The special effects had amazing realism which allowed for the performance to be dramatic! The actors were nice people.

I would recommend it to anyone and everyone.

By Kennedy Purcell
Year 6 Student

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Rostrum

Congratulations to Tom Carton and Molly Brabham for the efforts at Rostrum.

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Canteen News

Don't forget TACO TUESDAY - available every Tuesday for only $4!

The canteen also requires volunteers and would love to welcome some new faces. Please contact the office or drop in and see me if you can spare any time at all.

Next week’s volunteers:

Tue 14/6 Annie Ford
Wed 15/6 Grant Pascoe
Wed 15/6 Mini Canteen Keira & Howard
Thur 16/6 Brett Dawson
Fri 17/6 Sue Bottom

Rebecca Croke
Canteen Manager
Highlights for the Year 10 Sydney Excursion Itinerary 2016

**Tuesday 7 June**
- 6.15 am  Depart Cooma on coach
- 11.30 am  Sydney Olympic Stadium tour
- 2.00 pm  Lunch at Darling Harbour
- 2.45 pm  Sydney Aquarium
- 3.30 pm approx  Coach to Circular Quay. Walk through Farm Cove, Botanical Gardens, Mrs Macquaries Chair, Harbour Bridge etc. Catch ferry back to Darling Harbour
- 6.45 – 7.45 pm  Dinner at Darling Harbour
- 8.00 – 10 pm  Laser Skirmish and King Pin Bowling

**Wednesday 8 June**
- 7.30 am – 8.00 am  Walk to St Mary's Cathedral
- 8.30 – 9.00 am  Walk to Martin Place “Sunrise”
- 9.30 – 11.00 am  Hyde Park Barracks (need to be there by 9.15am)
- 12.10 pm  ABC Tour at Ultimo Studios
- 1.30 pm  Lunch at Paddy's Market
- 2.15 pm  Powerhouse Museum
- 5.15 - 6.15 pm  Darling Harbour for dinner
- 6.38 pm  Ferry from Darling Hbr Wharf 3 to Circular Quay to view “VIVID”
- 7.45 pm  Walk to Observatory from Circular Quay
- 8.15-10 pm  Sydney Observatory

**Thursday 9 June**
- 9.00 am  Travel to Taronga
- 12.00 – 1.00pm  Coach to Bondi
- 1.00 – 3.30 pm  Coastal walk from Bondi to Bronte
- 6.45 – 8.15 pm  Dinner at Sydney Tower

**Friday 10 June**
- 9.10 am  Walk down to Maritime Museum
- 11.30 am  Coach to Paddy's Market
- 5.45 pm  Return to Cooma
3 June 2016

ALL PRINCIPALS

Dear Principals

I write to let you know that I have notified the Archbishop that I am not seeking a third term as Director of Catholic Education Canberra Goulburn and that my resignation is effective mid January 2017.

I have been privileged to lead Catholic Education in our Archdiocese for almost 10 years. It has been a great 10 years, made especially so by the collegiality of all the Principals I’ve worked with and the CEO staff who work to support each and every one of your schools.

I estimate that over the past decade we’ve had some 130 different Principals take on the role of leading one of our Archdiocesan Catholic schools and at the same time working with me to ensure that the school they are leading is the best it can possibly be.

Over 10 years we’ve experienced ups and downs together: new schools opening with great fanfare and celebrations; older schools closing or changing with great sadness and community uproar; emergencies, disasters, enormous successes, devastating tragedies; a changing Church, changing Governments with all their associated changes in legislation, funding and programs; communities that have very different expectations of Catholic schools to what they had previously. But all this time our schools have remained focussed on the task of passing on our faith and its beliefs and traditions and ensuring good educational outcomes for students.

I’ve appreciated your wonderful passion for education and for the students and communities you lead. I’ve appreciated your frankness when giving me feedback. I’ve appreciated your support in balancing the subsidiarity of your local school community with the solidarity that ensures ongoing success for the total system. I’ve appreciated your support for one another, a real hallmark of our particularly diverse diocese.

So it is with sadness that I will be finishing up but also with a sense that my part in our story has been accomplished and that it is time for new vision and for new eyes.

Thank you for all you have done and all you will continue to do.

Yours sincerely,

Moira Najdecki
Director
The AFL Auskick program offers the chance to learn all the skills of Australian Football in a fun & safe environment!

Start Date: Saturday 18th June
Finish Date: Saturday 20th August (Saturdays excl. school holidays for 8 weeks)
Exclusion Dates: Saturday 9th July & Saturday 16th July (school holidays)
Times: 9:30am – 10:30am
Venue: Snowy Oval, Yarra St, Cooma
Cost: $70 pp includes Auskick Pack with Bag, Footy, Pump, Footycards etc!
Ages: Boys and Girls aged between 5 and 12 years old.
Register Online: www.aflauskick.com.au
More information call: Luke Martin 0413 249 983