C.S. Lewis speaks on Hoping For Something More...

"Most people, if they had really learned to look into their own hearts, would know that they do want, and want acutely, something that cannot be had in this world. There are all sorts of things in this world that offer to give it to you, but they never quite keep their promise.

“At present we are on the outside... the wrong side of the door. We discern the freshness and purity of morning, but they do not make us fresh and pure. We cannot mingle with the pleasures we see. But all the pages of the New Testament are rustling with the rumour that it will not always be so. Someday, God willing, we shall get “in”... We will put on glory... that greater glory of which Nature is only the first sketch.

We do not want to merely “see” beauty–though, God knows, even that is bounty enough. We want something else which can hardly be put into words—to be united with the beauty we see, to pass into it, to receive it into ourselves, to bathe in it, to become part of it.” This is our prayer. This is our hope.

Last Friday I spoke these words to the assembled group for the K-Year 6 Awards ceremony. Welcome. That’s a powerful word. It contains so many feelings, words and actions. It is the gift that we give to one another. Welcome can be conveyed in a smile or a gentle word or a greeting.

A welcome goes beyond words as it is an action that pulls people towards our school. It is how we speak about our school. It is the positive interactions on the bus-stop. It is the way you show good sportsmanship when representing the school. Every good thing that you do in the name of the school welcomes others to us.

Strength in gentleness is our motto and the very first step in that is the warmth of our welcome.

I have been warmly welcomed. You have embraced new staff members. New students have been sincerely welcomed, even those who were here for a ‘trial day’. Kindergartens were welcomed to school at the beginning of the year and Year 6 students were welcomed to Year 7 on their SPOT Days and TAG Days.

It is the way of this school. It is the foundation for all relationships.

It is in our hospitality. Our Parents and Friends association has extended that welcome to all parents and the attendance at the Infants family BBQ was the highest we have had. I really appreciate the work that is done by this band of willing volunteers. If you wanted to put you hand up, you too would receive a very warm welcome to the group. Just one or two hours a year would make a huge difference. And there are new friends to be made.

Year 6 students made the large wreath on the front door of the school. They know the importance of welcoming Christmas. It is time to welcome Jesus into our lives.

Thank you for the warmth of your welcome to me as the new Principal for St Patrick’s. I’m glad I came and that, dear children, kind parents and hard-working staff, is because of you.

Yours in hope

Frances Robertson
From the AP’s Desk

Year 10 Living and Learning

Year 10 students continue with their Living and Learning this week.

On Monday our Year 10 boys visited Mainstreet clothing store to learn the finer points of dressing appropriately for job interviews and formal occasions. We then went to the St Vincent de Paul store to find that recycled clothes can still look smart. It is important that young people realise the possibilities within ‘op-shops’ and become aware of stretching their limited dollars further.

Over the course of the Living and Learning Weeks, the Year 10 students have really benefitted from the expertise shared by many community members. We really appreciate the generosity of Mainstreet, Birdsnest, Commonwealth Bank, Boller & Co Real Estate, Craig Williams Driving Instruction, Natalie Fanning, Chris Fitzgerald from Mitre 10, Yvi Henderson and our School Counsellor and Well-Being coordinators, Katie and Jenny.

It was a new initiative for 2014 and we believe that it was well worth the time and organisation.

and coming events....

Thursday 11 December
K - 6 Swimming
Yr 10 Picnic Day

Friday 12 December
K - 6 Swimming
Yr 7 - 10 Awards Day 1.30pm
Yr 10 Graduation Liturgy 4pm

Monday 15 December
K - 6 Fun Day – at the pool in the morning
Yr 7 - 9 Fun Day – at the pool in the afternoon
K - 2 Santa Visit 2pm

Tuesday 16 December
K - 2 Christmas Concert

Wednesday 17 December
Yr 6 Celebration Liturgy 2pm followed by Family Celebration (BBQ) for the end of Primary school at 5pm. Note to come home.

2015

Wednesday 28 January
Yr 1 - 7 Return to School
Yr 7 Horrible Histories - Canberra (payment due now)

Thursday 29 January
Kindergarten First Day
Yr 8 - 10 Return to School
Second hand uniform shop

There is one more chance in 2014 to access the bargains in the second hand uniform shop this **Saturday 10.30 until 11.30 am.** Enter via the laneway behind the Infants block. The next opportunity will be the first Saturday after school starts in 2015.

Year 9 E-commerce

As part of their study of E-commerce, Year 9 Commerce students visited our local award-winning E-commerce business, **birdsnest.** The students had a tour of the site, including the warehouse and packing area, and then chose outfits that would be suitable for job interviews.

Christmas Eve Mass

6.00pm Wednesday 24 December

Children who would like to participate in the Christmas Eve Mass are invited to come to the church at 3.30pm on Mondays 15 & 22 December for a practice.

Class organisation for 2015

At this stage, we are preparing to have the following class organisation for 2015:

Kindergarten: Mrs Giovanna Davies and Mrs Kellie Summerville in the morning (two small classes) and Mrs Davies in the afternoon

Year 1: Mrs Stephanie Lovat

Year 2: Mrs Belinda Wilkins

Year 3: Mrs Angie Introna

Year 4: Mrs Bernadette Moser

Year 5: Mr Mike Introna

Year 6: Mrs Steve Joyce with Mrs Glenyce Moxon

Naturally, circumstances can change as a teacher’s personal situation changes and there may still be adjustments to this plan.

Thank you thank you thank you thank you

A HUGE thank you from the P&F Executive to all the Parents, Teachers, and Friends who worked on the BBQ at the Cooma Races on Saturday. We also had a great team of parents who cleaned the BBQ area at the race course and transported the equipment and food on Friday. Your time and contribution to the P&F activities is very much appreciated.

Please keep in mind that we also do the BBQ catering for Cooma Show in early March 2015, and we will need a band of helpers again for this event.

The P&F Executive
Thank you to Mrs Hulley, for the wisdom of years of experience in overseeing the organisation of the whole dinner.

Thank you to Mrs Knott, Ms Edwards and Mrs Nuridin for the wonderful preparation of the venue.
Thank you to the very patient Office staff for managing the tickets and juggling the phone calls. Thank you to Mrs Daley and Mrs Fletcher for working with the Food Technology class to prepare the antipasto platters. Thank you to Mrs Russell and Mrs Crawford for serving and cleaning up afterwards—that was massive job! Thank you to Year 9 students who helped with decorations and food service.
Canteen News

As advised last week, there are no more frozen yoghurts and from this week no more frozen fruit cups, but everything else is still available so for something frozen choose a Quelch or a Smooze with your lunch order!

Volunteers for the rest of this week:
Thursday 11/12: 10am Kim Kleven
Friday 12/12: 10am Chris Haylock

No volunteers needed next week! I can’t thank all of the canteen volunteers enough – thank you for welcoming me to the position this year, and for your invaluable support which has made it possible for me to provide healthy food options for our students.

No meal deal or special this Friday, just order as usual from the price list.

The last canteen awards for 2014 have been awarded to Angus & Oliver Wood. These boys always order healthy options and try new things – well done!!

This will be my last Canteen News until Term 1, so I’d like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday and look forward to seeing you all in 2015!

* 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name:</th>
<th>Class:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pink drawstring bag x ____ @ $9 each</td>
<td>Blue drawstring bag x ____ @ $9 each</td>
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TOTAL ENCLOSED:

Year 8 Drumbeat

Year 8 students supported “Celebrate Ability” last Friday with a Drumbeat Session in Cooma Centennial Park. The students put down their drums to be entertained by a magician and enjoyed other activities. Drumbeat is a community building process and the students are to be congratulated on their success in developing deeper listening skills and teamwork. Their presence was enjoyed at the event in a real appreciation of celebrating the gifts we all have.
IMPORTANT ROAD SAFETY REMINDER FOR
PARENTS AND CARERS THESE HOLIDAYS

As the school holidays approach, it is important to remember when walking near roads, on footpaths, near driveways and in car parks always:

- **hold your child's hand.** Until they are at least 8 years old children need to hold an adult's hand. Until they at least 10, children should be closely supervised by an adult and hold hands when crossing the road.

- **talk to your child about road safety.** Talk about how to be safe when near roads. Be a good role model.

- **point out road safety dangers and differences** in new environments. This is especially important when on holidays in different surroundings. Roads, footpaths and pedestrian may look different in holiday areas.

The best way to keep your child safe on or near the road is to hold their hand.

Talk with your child daily about road safety.

Remind other adults and carers about this too.

You can find out more at [Transport for NSW](http://www.transportnsw.info).

Have a safe holiday break!

Wanted

Below is a list of items that we are looking for to use next year with Kindergarten. If you are cleaning up over the holidays and no longer have space for any of these things, we would love to give them a new home!

- **Match box cars**
- **Trucks**
- **Lego**
- **Building block**
- **Board games – eg ludo snakes and ladder**
- **Doll house /furniture**
- **Play mats – mats to use outside for children to play on**
PASS - Mountain Bike Riding
Godly Play Kindergarten

Year 7 girls supported our Kindergarten students last Thursday in a Christmas craft activity. This activity followed the Scripture Story of Mary and the announcement she would be the mother of Jesus. The story was presented through Godly Play, a process that encourages students to be drawn into story and wonder at the mystery of life. Students enjoyed their time together and the girls were natural and gifted teachers. On leaving the Kindergarten students, the girls commented that they would love the opportunity to work with young students again.
Uniform matter

For consideration: As a result of listening the girls in Secondary complaining about the lightweight material in the blouses, we contacted South East Embroidery (our uniform supplier) about a change of fabric. The aim was to have a fabric that was not see-through when the jumpers were removed.

The suggestion is a change of style that allows the blouse to also be worn out over the waistband. The gentle curves at the front are very flattering. Thank you to Annika for modelling.

The Year 10 students think that both the style and the fabric are better for adolescent girls. This was supported by members of the School Board who saw it at a recent meeting. Other parents on staff are also approving, in principle.

Below are the pictures of the two shirts; the one on the right is the current shirt and the one on the left is the proposed change. We may or may not have the piping. It makes little difference to the overall cost. We will not have a logo on the shirt, as many schools do, as this increases the cost.

Can you please email frances.robertson@cg.catholic.edu.au with any responses to this proposal.
Christmas can be a stressful time for some people

For some it can trigger feelings of loss and grief of a love one whom they are missing, for others, it involves the expense of buying gifts, the pressure of last minute shopping, and the heightened expectations of family togetherness. These can all combine to undermine our best intentions.

Tips to reduce 'Christmas stress'.

If experiencing stress, anxiety, and depression during this festive season, reassure yourself that these feelings are normal. Stress reduction strategies include:

✦ Don't expect miracles. If you and certain family members bicker all year long, you can be sure there'll be tension at Christmas gatherings.

✦ Avoid known triggers. For example, if politics is a touchy subject in your family, don't talk about it. If someone brings up the topic, use distraction and quickly move on to something else to talk about.

✦ Use relaxation techniques, such as deep breathing or focusing on your breath to cope with anxiety or tension.

✦ Family members involved in after-lunch activities (such as cricket on the back lawn) are less likely to get into arguments. Plan for something to do as a group after lunch if necessary.

✦ People under stress tend to 'self-medicate' with alcohol, cigarettes and other drugs. Try to remember that drugs can't solve problems or alleviate stress in the long term.

Cooma Champs Tennis

SCHOOL HOLIDAY TENNIS CAMPS


$90.00 for 2 day camp.

DISCOUNTED TO $65.00 if booking and payment received a week prior to camp. (Cash, cheque or Direct Debit accepted.)

9am – 3pm, ROYAL TENNIS COURTS  Please call
Tom:0404838049

Camps suitable for beginner to intermediate players. Some great prizes to be won, so come along and have some fun.
January 2015 School Holiday Program

Monday 12th January - CLOSED

Tuesday 13th January - Wii “Just Dance Day” (11am to 4pm)
Come and take the “Just Dance” challenge & have some fun

Wednesday 14th January - Cup Cake Decorating (11am to 4pm)
Come in and enjoy cup cake decorating

Thursday 15th January - Pool Day (11am to 2pm - meet @ the HUB)
Escape the hot weather, come and enjoy a day at the pool (weather permitting)

Friday 16th January - Juice and Chill Out Day (11am to 4pm)
Come in and enjoy a fresh juice and then kick back and relax for the day

Monday 19th January - CLOSED

Tuesday 20th January - Gaming Day (11am to 4pm)
Come in and have some fun gaming @ the HUB

Wednesday 21st January—Arts & Craft Day (11am to 4pm)
Come to The HUB and be creative, paint / draw / make something arty

Thursday 22nd January - Treasure / Scavenger Hunt (11am-4pm)
Register for the great hunt, create a team, complete the tasks and win some fun prizes!!
To register contact Cathy & Emma

Friday 23rd January - Mexican Feast Night (4pm-7pm)
Come in and enjoy a healthy Mexican meal, and you can even help out with the cooking!!!

12-17 years old - FREE Lunch provided

Any enquires, call or txt Cathy 0403 498 322 / Emma 0437 135 092
Or facebook us on CathyEmmaHub

The Hub: YMCA Youth Services
39-41 Vale Street, COOMA
P: 6452 5534
NETBALL SCHOOL HOLIDAY CLINIC

Monday 19 January, 2015

Looking for something to do during the school holidays? Register for the Netball NSW School Holiday Clinic!

When: Monday 19 January 2015
Where: Sapphire Coast Netball Association – Merimbula Netball Courts, Ford Park Courts, Ocean Drive, Merimbula
Time: 9:00am – 12:00pm (arrive at 8.30 am for registration)
Register: Online at netballnsw.com

Participants will receive a Netball NSW goodie bag including a Gilbert netball!

- 3 hours of netball fun
- Age specific
- Learn new skills
- Try new netball moves
- Tailored to participant skill levels
- Accredited coaches on hand

Play lots of fun games and improve your netball skills all at the same time!

For: Children aged 5 – 12 years old
Cost: $40
Bring: Healthy snacks, drink bottle, sunscreen and a hat

Registrations for this clinic will close: Monday 12 January 2015.

SPORTY SWIFT

- Official Team Mascot of the NSW Swifts
- Huge netball fan
- Loves to play any position on court – but really loves cheering from the sidelines!

let’s play netball

To find out more visit netballnsw.com or letsplaynetball.com
Call 02 9951 5000 or Email netball@netballnsw.com